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ED. F. MOREARTY

OMAHA MEMORIES

Recollections of Events, Men and Affairs
in Omaha, Nebraska, from
1879 to 1917

BY

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OMAHA
SWARTZ PRINTING CO.
1917

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MAY - 7 1917

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PREFACE

In writing these Recollections of Omaha, it was not my intention to submit a history of Omaha, nor an Autobiography; nor is this work intended as such. It is just what the title claims to be: "Omaha Memories—Recollections of Omaha from 1879 to 1917, of Events, Men and Affairs," with comments.

In it I have not sought to throw bouquets at some men and brick-bats at others; nor confining myself to the old settlers only, but to new ones as well. In the brief biographies here given, which were written by myself and not a line by another, I have written from my own personal knowledge of the men, aside from the information given me by them as to age and place of birth—nothing else of which have they had prior knowledge of or been consulted, or asked to pay for. It contains no advertisements, and but one photograph, that of my own.

This book is written partly from memory and partly from a diary kept by me during the past 36 years, and is not intended as a money-making scheme, for I do not expect to make one dollar from its sales. I will feel that I am amply rewarded for my two years' labor (that of 1915-16) should the present generation, those living here as well as those who formerly resided here, derive some pleasure in reviewing the events of the past, and the future generation gain a knowledge of the marvelous growth of Omaha and the changes that have taken place in it from 1879 to 1917.

ED. F. MOREARTY.

OMAHA

The meaning of the word Omaha is, "Above all others—upon a stream"—an Indian word, E-roma-ha. Tradition has it that two tribes of Indians had a great many years ago met on the Missouri River, and engaged in a hostile encounter, in which all on one side were killed but one, who had been thrown into the river. Rising suddenly from what was thought to be a watery grave, he lifted his head above the surface and pronounced the word "Omaha" which had never been heard before. Those who heard it adopted it as the name of their tribe. How much truth there is in the story I do not know, suffice it to say that it has past as current.

It is generally conceded that the first white man to locate in Omaha was in 1854. The late William P. Snowden has assured me on various occasions that he was that man, although I am not vouching for the accuracy of the statement. Be he the first, or someone else, I am exceedingly thankful to the man or men who were the original founders of this city, and for many reasons; among them might be assigned: Because I have spent nearly two-thirds of my life in it, and because it is the best city in the world in which to live and raise a family; because it is the metropolis of one of the best agricultural states in the Union, the one possessing the least illiteracy.

Because it is in the geographical center of the United States, through which passes the channels of commerce from the rock-bound coast of Maine to the Golden Gate of California, and from the snow-capped mountains of Canada to the pleasant glades of Florida; because it has the most even and healthful climate of any spot in the United States; because it is the second primary live stock market of the world; because it is the fourth primary grain market of the world; because its jobbing trade in 1916 was \$188,000,000; because its factory output for 1916 was \$219,000,000; because it is the greatest creamery producing city in the world.

Because in 1999 it will have a population of 1,000,000 people; because it is the greatest lead ore reducing city in the world; because it is the second primary corn market in the world; because it is the greatest sheep feeding market in the world;

because it has the broadest streets and best kept of any city of her size in the United States; because it has more palatial residences and the greatest number of home owners in proportion to population than any other city in the world; because it has the most extensive, best equipped, best service street car system in the world; because it has the most schools and most efficient teachers in this nation.

Because it is the best-governed city in the Union; because it is the most lively, progressive, commercial city on the map; because it has more churches, with more members, than any city of her size in the world; because it has the most contented homogeneous class of people on this continent—in short, it is the birth-place of one of the best women in the world, the mother of eight of the finest children in all Omaha's 200,000 inhabitants (all born and raised and educated in Omaha)—My Wife.

My love for Nebraska can be no better expressed than in the following lines from Adam Breed:

Nebraska land, Nebraska land,
 I love your waving fields;
Nebraska land, Nebraska land,
 I love your golden yields;
It matters not where I may be,
 What foreign fields I roam,
You'll always be most dear to me.
 I love you 'cause you're home.

CHAPTER I.

1880

On the 15th day of January, 1880, I arrived in the City of Omaha, Nebraska, direct from my native city, Knoxville, Tennessee, where I was born August 11, 1860, so that on my arrival here, I had not yet attained my majority. I knew nothing of Omaha, in fact, I had scarcely heard of it except from what I had read in the Omaha Herald, copies of which were in the reading room of the Knoxville Public Library. I did not know a living soul in Omaha the day I landed here; had but little money and finding myself a stranger in a strange land, it behooved me to look for work. I had no trade or profession, the last work that I did was on my father's farm on Beaver Creek, twelve miles west of Knoxville, near the Blue Ridge Mountains. My earlier education I obtained in the public schools of Knox County, and later took a four-year course in the Christian Brothers' College, in a little town called Dingle, in County Kerry, Ireland, from which place I graduated in 1876. Feeling that I had no pull it became necessary for me to resort to push, and to take that which most readily presented itself. In my travels seeking work, I finally came to where Duffy Brothers were digging out the cellar of the big brick building on the southeast corner of Thirteenth and Harney Streets, which is still standing and which for years was occupied by the wholesale grocery of Steel, Johnson & Co. At this place I asked for a job shoveling; upon inquiry as to whether or not I had a "shebble" (shovel) I said I had neither "shebble" nor money to buy one, so the boss found one for me and I proceeded to work. The job lasted for three days and I received the munificent sum of \$4.50. My boarding-house and the one where I had taken my first meal and first night's lodging was at 1314 Leavenworth Street, a two-story building, dignified with the title of "Wallanze Hotel," owned by Michael Wallanze—yet living.

The summer of 1880, in Omaha, was one of the hottest and dustiest I have ever experienced, and this city had just begun to recover from the grasshopper blight from which the entire state had suffered for a number of years. The city was then claiming to have a population of 30,000 inhabitants and was about to attain the dignity of having a waterworks system, of which I will treat later on.

However, resuming my story of securing a job (not a position), after much effort I acquired one at the Omaha Nail Works, which were located between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets and the Union Pacific tracks. There were about one hundred and twenty-five men working there and nearly fifty nail machines, with a daily capacity of two hundred kegs of nails. This concern was established in 1879 and went out of business in

1883; it was a stock company, the majority of stock being owned by the Creightons and McShanes. One additional stockholder, Mr. Burtholder, a heavy set man who ran a junk store, complained to me years afterwards that he lost every cent he had in the enterprise.

It was while employed there that I first met John A. and Phil McShane, the latter being cashier. Martin Dineen, who afterwards became assistant chief of the Omaha fire department, was employed as a nail picker, and at the time was but a small boy. Evenings I sauntered leisurely around the city, and in so sauntering, curiosity prompted me to follow a crowd of men going up the steps of a two-story brick building located on the southwest corner of Twelfth and Douglas streets (this building is still standing). The crowd that was surging in there were gamblers, eager to bet on the game run by Dan Allen; Gotley Brooker was dealing the cards. However, shortly after my arrival there I heard the report of a pistol shot. Those of us who had no money up, ran out to see what happened, and upon inquiry found that a man had been shot one-half block north on Twelfth Street in the old St. Elmo Theatre, or variety show, one of the toughest joints between Chicago and Leadville, and was managed by Jack and Billie Nugent; it afterwards changed its name to the Buckingham Theatre—that owing to the fact that Mayor C. S. Chase had ordered the old place closed—but, as Shakespeare said, “there was nothing in a name,” for the place had not changed its moral tone. Omaha being a frontier town at that time, little regard was shown for law and order, saloons were licensed after a fashion, but it made no difference to what grocery store you went you could find a keg of whiskey on tap at all times, which would be sold to the customers and charged up on their pass-books just the same as sugar or potatoes. There was no limit to the hours that saloons were to be opened or closed, in fact most of them had no key to the front door. From 1880 to 1882 Ninth Street, from Jackson to Leavenworth, was the principal retail street running north and south. On this street, just south of Jackson, was located one of the largest retail grocery stores in the city, owned by a man named St. Felix, who, in 1882, moved his stock to his new building, corner Seventeenth and Howard streets. There were many other small stores and any quantity of saloons in that stretch of street. The Southern Hotel, on the northeast corner of Ninth and Leavenworth Streets, was at that time a fashionable hotel.

I am now at that stage where I have another job—it is with the Omaha Foundry and Machine Co., Seventeenth and Union Pacific Railroad tracks, afterward known as the Paxton & Vierling Iron Works. This time my duties were of a two-fold nature: that of fireman and blacksmith's helper; the engineer was Charles Sudenberg, afterwards city boiler inspector of Omaha, under Mayor Bemis. My undertaking as blacksmith's helper was of

short duration, as I knew no more of the sound language of the blacksmith's anvil than a laughing hyena knows about mathematics; about the first time my services were brought into requisition was when Mr. Fred Simpson, the blacksmith, called on me to hit a swedge in welding a long piece of wrought iron that was intended and which was afterwards used as a brace over the divided door of Jim Stephens' livery stable, corner Tenth and Howard streets. Simpson would sound on the anvil with his little hammer in such parlance as would indicate the rapidity and force which I was expected to use; this being all Greek to me and having heard some very uncomplimentary remarks about my intellect, I became frightened and hit the anvil in the center in one blow, then the point of it in the next, breaking the handle and striking Mr. Simpson on the foot with the hammer part of it. There was nothing left for me to do but run, and this I did, with Mr. Simpson after me. I was not overtaken, my pursuer having been put out of commission when I reached Seventeenth Street. But to this day Mr. Simpson and myself have been the warmest of friends, and upon various occasions of late years I have been his attorney. I remained with that company (shorn of some of my duties) until April, 1881; while there I formed the acquaintanceship of the owner of the concern, Captain T. W. T. Richards, one of the finest men I have ever met. He was an attorney by profession, and lived on the corner of Eighteenth and Farnam streets, afterwards moving to California.

In July of that year I moved, or rather changed my quarters and collar box, from the Wallanze Hotel to a boarding-house kept by Pat. Garvey, on the northwest corner of Thirteenth and Mason Streets. This was a commodious two-story building; this hostage was presided over by Pat. Harvey, a haughty, quick-tempered and impulsive son of the Emerald Isle, but the management was in the hands of his wife, one of the most lovable of women; the family consisted of three girls and two boys; the girls were Nellie, Annie and Kate, and the boys Charles and Leo. Charles is now owner and proprietor of the Puritan Laundry, and all reside in Omaha. The cold weather of the fall of 1880 came very early, the first snow and sleet arrived on the tenth day of October and while there were a few days during the balance of the year that were pleasant yet the weather up to January was extremely cold. It being my first winter in the north since I left sunny Tennessee I was much discouraged, but have witnessed thirty-six more Nebraska winters since then. (Since writing the above, Patrick Garvey died October 30, 1915.)

CHAPTER II.

1881

The year 1881 having been ushered in, the early part of it found me with a new job; this time it was with John A. Wake-

field, who ran a big lumber yard where now stands the Union Pacific local freight house, Ninth and Jackson Streets. My employment there was but of short duration, but of pleasant memory, as there I formed a friendship with Mr. Wakefield that will last so long as we both shall live.

On May 9th, 1881, I left the employ of Mr. Wakefield to accept a job with the Union Pacific Railroad at its local freight depot, where now stands the Union Depot. My first introduction to what was then called a "Green Line Truck," took place on the tenth day of May; my duties and responsibilities were very light, but not so with my burdens as a trucker of freight; one seldom knew what the heft of his next load was going to be, and being the youngest man up to that time who had ever worked at that place at that kind of labor, I was continuously being "bawled out" by the old "terriers" that had been there since Heck was a pup. I was told to go back to the high school and many other expressions, all of which only served to nerve me up.

On May 21st there was no freight to handle because of the high water on the east side of the Missouri River. On that morning three others and myself, accompanied by J. T. Clark, general superintendent of the road, went to Council Bluffs to help build a pontoon bridge from the east end of the Union Pacific bridge to the Union Station in Council Bluffs. The water was fast rising, and by the time the pontoon bridge was built the water all along the bottoms, from the east end of the Union Pacific bridge to the Union Depot in Council Bluffs, was from twelve to fifteen feet deep. The bridge was about fifteen feet wide, with a space for passengers on both sides, leaving room for a baggage truck in the center. At the noon hour next day one of the men, William McDevitt, J. T. Clarke and myself, rode in a boat from the Union Station in Council Bluffs, up to the Ogden House in that city. This system of transferring passengers and baggage, including express matter, continued until the flood had subsided and the trains began their usual schedule, which was about June 1st. The Missouri River at that time had raised so high that the smelting works were forced to close down, and the water was three feet deep in the Union Pacific shops. However, "it's an ill wind that blows no good," for this flood forever settled the rivalry between Omaha and Council Bluffs as to which would be the most suitable place in which to live, and to do business in. Pictures of the two cities were taken at that time and placed in the windows of the business houses and hotels of Omaha; the pictures showed Council Bluffs with houses and barns floating down the river, and others with but the chimney tops above water, while Omaha was pictured on a high hill overlooking the river and having the appearance of the mart of commerce. This was the commencement of a real estate boom for

Omaha, which before it ended in 1887, had few equals in American history, but, like the average boom, it was much inflated and caused a set-back to the city's progress, which injury terminated only when the Trans-Mississippi Exposition was held here in 1898.

To resume the story of my experience during the balance of the year with the Union Pacific road at its local freight department, will state that I neither paid any attention to nor cared for the jeers of the older men in the department, and soon became their fast friend. Whether by accident or good luck I am unable to say, I was soon relieved from physical exertion and given an opportunity to test if I possessed any mental acumen. It happened this way: A box-car loaded with furniture, and consigned to Dewey & Stone of Omaha had been damaged while in transit, and Mr. Black, the foreman of the department, was requested by C. B. Havens, the local agent, to send someone to get a report on it, and I was chosen. I made the report and placed it on the agent's desk; was soon asked by Mr. Black to report to Mr. Havens' office. On my way there I felt that I was to get my time, and where would I get another job? I had never met Mr. Havens, and knew him only in my many efforts to avoid running over him on the platform with my truck-load of freight. I was, however, agreeably surprised when he began making inquiries of me as to the extent of my schooling and who I was. After I had informed him he was curious to learn why I was engaged in an occupation that required no powers of mind beyond animal instinct. I informed him that I had no influence or friends to advance me, and had a mother, sister and brother who were depending upon me for support, so took what I could get. Struck by my candid statements he informed me that I was too valuable a young man to the company to be running a truck, and immediately gave me the position of receiving clerk, and an increase of \$20 per month over what I was getting. This position I held during the year 1881, and was promoted each year, as will appear from time to time in these recollections.

On the Fourth of July of that year there was a ball given in the old Kuony Hall, southeast corner of Fourteenth and Dodge Streets; it was given under the auspices of the Emmet Monument Association; I purchased a ticket from P. C. Heafey, who at this writing is known, honored and respected as "Colonel" Heafey. There I met, for the first time, the one whom I won and wed. A few weeks thereafter Sells Brothers' circus came to town, and I took it in. The circus grounds were located on the then outskirts of the city, and much indignation was manifested because it was held on the southwest corner of Twenty-fourth and Farnam streets, the lot on which Joseph Millard afterward lived. This lot was afterward bought by Phelan & Sherley, and

at this writing there is erected upon it a splendid two-story brick building with stores both on Twenty-fourth and on Farnam Streets. Such is the flight of time, and changed conditions which have taken place in the upbuilding and progress of the City of Omaha within a generation. Where at this writing stands the Nebraska Clothing Store on Fifteenth and Farnam Streets, there stood in the fall of 1880 a livery stable owned and run by Matt Wilbert. About that time the property was purchased by James E. Boyd, who in 1881 erected on the lot an opera house, which was considered one of the finest in the West. On September 19th of this year President Garfield, who on July 3rd was shot by Giteau, died, and on that day, on the afternoon of his obsequies was declared a holiday. All works and business houses were closed for the day, and exercises were held on the High School grounds, at which John M. Thurston, John L. Webster, John C. Cowin, Edward Rosewater and W. J. Connell delivered fitting eulogies on the death of the President, followed by the adoption of suitable resolutions befitting the solemn occasion. That day proved to be one of the hottest of the whole year, and a number of this large crowd, so densely packed, were overcome by the heat.

During the month of October there was an unusual amount of rain; there being no paved streets and but few permanent sidewalks, travel on foot and by vehicle was very difficult. It was no unusual thing to see wagons stuck in the mud anywhere from Ninth to Fifteenth and Farnam Streets and as I recall it, the first permanent sidewalk ever laid in Omaha was on Eleventh and Farnam Streets around the building then owned and occupied by Max Meyer as a wholesale and retail jewelry store. The building is there yet. So durable was the material in this walk that it was never repaired until 1910.

Tenth Street in the latter part of that year was fast becoming the leading retail street north and south. This, however, was of but short duration. The latter part of that year (I think it was Christmas night) I was walking south on Fourteenth Street in company with a man named James Tracy, when our attention was attracted by a number of men moving rapidly toward Fifteenth and Farnam Streets. We followed the crowd which led to the wholesale and retail liquor house of Julius Treitschke, which was located on the corner of the alley in an old frame building which was afterwards replaced by the building now known as the Barker Block. To our surprise we found Charles Kosters in charge of Dan Angel, then city marshal. In the heat of passion Kosters had killed a man named Hammer. This was about 11:30 at night, and the place was ordered closed. Kosters had a number of trials in this prosecution and was finally acquitted. General John C. Cowin was his attorney.

CHAPTER III.

1882

The year 1882 presented itself and it brought with it amongst other things a promotion for me in the freight department, in the form of my appointment as check clerk, which position I held during the entire year, so that I was fast getting beyond what might be classed as holding a "job," and was now holding a position. I had as my freight caller a short stubby Irishman by the name of Tommy Ryan; he was an old soldier and very irritable, so much so that he was seldom if ever at peace with himself or the balance of mankind. However, by having to do his work as well as my own I managed to get along with him for a year. It was different, however, with my stevedore; he was an easy-going affable man whom everybody liked, and he in turn liked everybody.

This proved a memorable year for Omaha; in fact, it was in this year that the city began to get out of its "swaddling clothes." Old landmarks disappeared rapidly; heavy investments were made; large wholesale and retail houses were being established; and the city started its first public improvements, such as grading, sewerage and paving. This was the second year of James E. Boyd's administration as mayor, and to him more than to any other agency can be attributed the spirit which aroused the people of Omaha to a realization of the need of public improvements, which began under his first administration and has since continued. The Millard and Paxton Hotels were each built in this year, as was also the Nebraska National Bank. It was during this year that the celebrated dump strike took place. This strike grew out of the awarding of the contract for the grading of the B. & M. grounds on Sixth Street and B. & M. tracks; the Burlington road had purchased a tract of land at that place formerly known as the old Herman Kountze residence; the company bought it for the purpose for which it is now used—as a freight depot. The contract for grading and filling was awarded to Jim Stephenson at such a ridiculously low price that he could pay his men not more than \$1.00 or \$1.35 per day. As a result the men struck for higher wages, and refused to let other men work in their places; this Stephenson resented and called for police protection, which proved inadequate, and sentiment began to run dangerously high, when on the tenth day of March, on Fourteenth Street near the Paxton Hotel, Mayor Boyd mounted a chair and read the "Riot Act" to the multitude who had assembled, and calling upon them to maintain order. This official act of his failing of its purpose, he asked the sheriff for assistance. The sheriff, David N. Millar, finding himself unable to quell the disturbance, immediately called upon the Governor (Albinus Nance) for aid from the state militia, which on March 12th, in four coaches, landed at

the Union Depot and marched in platoons up Tenth Street, thence east on Jackson where they established their quarters called the "White Village." On March 16th an honest and unoffensive old man named George Armstrong was passing the grounds about dusk, when he was killed by one of the guards on duty, having been pierced with a bayonet. This aroused great indignation and caused 5,000 laboring men to parade the streets, headed by a band, denouncing the mayor, the sheriff and the governor. The governor forthwith placed the city under martial law, ordering the closing of all saloons, and permitting no one on the streets, without cause, after eight o'clock. In the meantime, men had been placed to work and the grading was completed through the protection of the militia, after which they were recalled by the governor. The feeling against Mayor Boyd lasted for years afterward, and much political capital was made from it; the election for ward councilmen being held in April of the same year, resulting in the election of the Labor Ticket, of C. C. Thrane, a shoemaker, from the First Ward; John F. Behm, house-mover, from the Second Ward; D. L. McGuckin, saloonkeeper, from the Third Ward, and Ed. Luder, grocer, from the Fifth Ward.

The legislative session of 1881 passed the Slocumb liquor law, and it being such a surprise to the liquor element they sought at first to ignore it and continue in the old rut. So determined were they in their effort to overlook its provisions and its enforcement that at the following fall election, a complete Democratic county ticket was nominated on a platform which pledged the nominees, in the event of their election, to refuse to enforce that law. However, a few days prior to the election, Watson B. Smith, clerk of the United States Circuit Court, was shot in his office in the old Postoffice Building. As he had been a persistent fighter in the enforcement of that law, and it having been reported that he had received threatening letters warning him to let up on his fight or take the consequences, public opinion at once centered on the liquor element as the ones responsible for this murder; whether they were or were not, to this day it is not known. To vindicate themselves, every liquor man and his friends were out on the morning of the election supporting the Republican ticket, which was overwhelmingly elected. From that day to the present writing, no effort has been made by anyone to ignore the law or ask for its repeal, and in my judgment it was this law and its wise regulations of the liquor traffic that has kept the state of Nebraska out of the prohibition column of dry states.

At the fall election of that year the people were called upon to vote on the constitutional amendment submitted by the Legislature of 1881, which contemplated the giving and granting to women the right to vote. This amendment was bitterly fought,

more especially so by the foreign element, and the prominent daily papers, including the Omaha Bee and Omaha Herald. Those backing and advocating the measure were Susan B. Anthony, Belvill Lockwood, and Phoebe Cousins; those women were able champions of their cause and challenged their opponents to joint debate. In this they were accommodated, as Edward Rosewater accepted the challenge of Susan B. Anthony, the joint debate taking place in Boyd's Opera House in September of that year, and was enjoyed by the crowded house that attended, each side being applauded as their respective clinching arguments were made. Mr. Rosewater, however, judging from the applause, merited the decision. At that time, in my estimation, he was at the height of his physical and intellectual powers. A few days thereafter, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, now editor of the World-Herald and United States senator from this state, accepted the challenge of Phoebe Cousins, the debate taking place in the same opera house as that of the Rosewater-Anthony debate. Mr. Hitchcock was at the time a beardless youth, a recent graduate from a college at Heidelberg, Germany, though a native son of Omaha. This debate drew as large a house as that of the Rosewater-Anthony debate. Mr. Hitchcock at first labored under somewhat of a disadvantage, not having been as well known to the audience as was Mr. Rosewater. I will confess it was the first time I had ever seen or heard of him; yet I am free to say that as the debate progressed he proved to be an agreeable surprise to the audience and to me. During the debate he became so enthused in his subject that he invoked the wrath of his opponent to such an extent that she arose from her seat to attract his attention, and pointing her long bony forefinger at him menacingly, exclaimed: "Mr. Hitchcock, you are a disgrace to the mother who bore you." He was applauded to the echo and won the debate on its merits.

CHAPTER IV.

1883

The opening and closing of this year found me still with the Union Pacific Railroad Company, but with it also came another promotion, that of classification clerk, coupled with the duties of check clerk. In April of that year the term of James E. Boyd, as mayor of Omaha, terminated, and the two old political parties held their respective conventions. This was the occasion of my first introduction into the political arena; I was a delegate from the Second Ward to the City Democratic Convention, through the grace of John Mahoney, P. W. Lynch and Tom Fitzmorris. Mayor Boyd, fearing the wrath of the dump strikers, refused to again be a candidate, and the convention was at a loss to find a strong candidate. I suggested Judge James W. Savage, who was nominated by acclamation; he made

the race and was defeated by less than 100 votes. Champion S. Chase, the Republican nominee, was elected. Mayor Chase was a genial, whole-souled man, but very pompous and determined in having his own way, and was very unfortunate in some of his appointments, notably that of city marshal. To this position he appointed a man named Guthrie, a machinist in the Union Pacific shops; this appointment proved very disastrous to Mayor Chase, as will appear later on in my Recollections.

As previously stated, the city began to grow and spread, and its commercial importance to assume a proportion that challenged attention, and many new wholesale and retail houses were established. It was that year that Paxton & Gallagher purchased the lot and built their present wholesale house; this lot was the one on which stood the old Slaven House. This firm prior to its present location was in a two-story brick building where now stands the Ware Block on the southeast corner of Fifteenth and Farnam Streets, built and owned by W. A. Paxton, and named after his wife, whose maiden name was Ware. It was that year also that McCord, Brady & Co. built their present wholesale house on the corner of Thirteenth and Leavenworth Streets. Their former house was located on Tenth and Farnam streets, now the Burlington headquarters. That year also saw the erection of the Parlin-Orendorf implement house; they were a new firm who located here that year, and as I am informed at this writing, they have never regretted coming here.

The Barker Hotel on the northeast corner of Thirteenth and Jones Streets was constructed that year, and was for a number of years one of the leading hotels. On the northwest corner of Eleventh and Douglas streets there stands a large five-story brick building built that year by "Fatty Glynn," a man who weighed some 425 pounds and was formerly a circus clown. The rear of this building was occupied by a saloon, run by Mr. Glynn; it proved a rendezvous for visiting sports from all over the country. This building was for years afterwards occupied by Stubendorff & Nestor as a wholesale liquor house. On the southwest corner of the same street there was built and is still standing a large four-story brick building, built by United States Senator Paddock, after his first term as a senator from Nebraska. This building was for a number of years used by M. E. Smith and S. Katz & Co. as an overall factory.

In the summer of this year Tenth Street was paved and business was directed that way, and between Jackson and Jones on the west side of it one of the then largest retail dry goods stores was located and was conducted by Pete Wigg and John N. Westburg, and known as the Wigg & Westburg stores. The construction of the Tenth Street viaduct soon depreciated the street and business was driven further west to Thirteenth Street. In the early part of that year a syndicate composed of Paxton,

McShane, Boser and Woolworth, purchased a large tract of land south of the city and what is now known as South Omaha. This land was purchased from George Homes, Fred Drexel, Pat Hoctor and John Kinnelly, all of which lands were by them homesteaded. The original intent of the purchasers was to name the town Glasgow, and no doubt would have been done had it not been for Ed Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, and Dr. George L. Miller, editor of the Omaha Herald.

About the middle of this year Sixteenth Street was graded from Leavenworth to Izard Street. To one who had not seen this street before it was graded and now it would appear incredible to be told of the changed conditions which will be noted later on. The State Fair was held in Omaha that year, and was located in the north part of the city, now Kountze Park; the weather was very unpleasant, being cold and chilly rains. That year my mother, sister and brother joined me, having come from our old home in Knoxville, Tennessee, and I rented a house where now stands the Creighton Medical Institute, where for the first and only time in my life I lived in the Third Ward. However, it was but for a short time. I shortly moved to 1314 Jackson Street, then a fashionable residence part of Omaha.

CHAPTER V.

1884

The year 1884 came with its many pleasant recollections. Business began to assume a lively attitude, the railroads were placing on extra freight trains, and so heavy became the Mormon immigration to Utah that trains were run in sections. This, coupled with an unusual number of land seekers, made passenger travel reach the point of congestion with the Union Pacific Railroad. Especially freight was piled mountain-high at the Union Pacific freight depot; men were forced to work day and night to load and unload it, while express companies had to do likewise. On the first day of May of that year the Union Pacific Railroad issued an order reducing the wages of its employees ten per cent. This action was met by a refusal on the part of the men, they refusing to accept the reduction, and on the second day of May not a wheel was turned on either the Union Pacific or Kansas Pacific roads. On the evening of May 3rd a monster meeting of the employees was held at the old Academy of Music, 1311 Douglas Street, where Joseph Ständeven of the Union Pacific shops was selected as chairman and myself as secretary. Committees were appointed for various purposes; I was placed on two of them: That of notifying all divisions of the road as to the action taken at Omaha, and that of waiting on General Manager S. H. H. Clark of the Union Pacific road to notify him of the stand taken by the employees. We met Mr. Clark, and a

kinder or more sensible man I have never known. He informed us of his regret in having to issue the order reducing the wages, and stated that it was made by the board of directors and against his will, and that he had telegraphed the board and Mr. Gould, the president of the road, the condition of things, and hoped for instructions rescinding the order. Subsequent events proved the truth of his statement, for at seven o'clock on the evening of May 4th, as we had reconvened, a message came to us from Mr. Clark, announcing the rescinding of the order reducing the wages. Whistles blew, bells rang, and thus ended what threatened to be a great strike.

On May 13th of that year, at Omaha, I was married, at St. Philomena's Cathedral, Ninth and Howard Streets, to Miss Susie J. Lynch, a young lady born and raised in Omaha, and who had attended the old Jackson and Pacific Street grade schools, and later two years the Omaha High School, under Professor Beals. This beloved wife is still living, possessing the bloom of youth, a happy conscience, surrounded by a loving family of eight children (and myself). As one of the parties who had taken a prominent part in the recent strike, I was called into the office of P. P. Shelby, general freight agent of the Union Pacific, and after receiving a sound piece of advice from him I also received a time check, which ended my railroad career and put an end to my ambitions to be a railroad magnate. In recalling my experience while in the service of the Union Pacific railroad, in its local freight department, fond recollections carry me back to the memory of the men whose acquaintance I formed at that place during a period of three years; many of them were young then and I am pleased to know that at this writing most of them still live and reside in Omaha, and whose children have grown into manhood and womanhood; and of those that are gone I am pleased to say that their children's cheeks need never tingle with the blush of shame at the mention of their names. In that department was the agent, a prince among men, C. B. Havens, who afterwards organized and operated the C. B. Havens Coal Co., who some ten years ago left to meet his Creator. The foreman of that department was D. C. Black, a cool, quiet, fatherly, unassuming man of much discernment, who appreciated a man's services and was ever ready and willing to reward merit, and always encouraged his men. He is still living and it is my sincere hope that his shadow may never grow less. Another of those men was P. W. Lynch, check clerk; to know him was to love him; physically he was a noble specimen of manhood, six feet one inch in height, square-shouldered, and every inch a man in the true sense of the word; he died in 1897, while serving as United States storekeeper at the Willow Springs distillery. In this department also was Andrew Tracy, a check clerk, an old and honored resident of Omaha who was looked upon as the dean of the department, whose word was his bond and whose

piety and example were worthy of emulation; he died in 1904. Bryan Farrell, another old resident of Omaha, who was employed there as check clerk, was an old soldier, and had been many years with the company; he was a slow, painstaking, temperate, quiet and unassuming man, beloved by all who knew him; he died in 1900 and left a wife and a large family, all of whom are still living and residing in Omaha. Others who were employed there at that time were Jerry Mulvihill, cashier, now bookkeeper at the Omaha Club; George Hicks, chief clerk, who for many years has been in the real estate business in Omaha, now with offices in the State Bank Building; Alva Cook, bill clerk, now president of the Union Fuel Co.; Colonel P. C. Heafey, check clerk, now in the undertaking business and a member of the governor's staff; Thomas Nolan, for a short time agent of the department, who died in 1898 by being asphyxiated; Patrick Garvey, receiving clerk, now manager of the Puritan Laundry in Omaha; Captain Henry P. Haze, caller, for years, and since held offices in various departments of the Omaha police department and now Deputy United States Marshal; Captain Michael Dempsey, laborer, for many years a member of the Omaha police force, now ranking as captain; Andrew Fahey, laborer, for many years a member of the police force of Omaha; Ed. McGuin, James Tracy, William McCague, Pat Egan, Terrance Boyd, Patrick Leary and John Minnick, all still in the employ of the company in the checking and inspecting of freight; George Trumble, foreman, is now on pension. Frank Pogue and Frank O'Halloran were then filling minor positions in the office and are now cashier and chief clerk, respectively.

On leaving the employ of the Union Pacific road, I secured a position on a weekly newspaper called the "Western Celt," owned by M. V. Gearin, formerly of Greeley, Nebraska. I remained with this publication until the fall of that year, leaving it to accept a position on an evening paper called the "Dispatch," owned and run by two very fine men, George and Robert Wallace, brothers; this paper was a clean, well edited one, but not a paying proposition, and was sold by the owners, in December of that year, to P. A. Gavin, a book agent, and John Moore, a man of some means and a newcomer in Omaha, and M. V. Gearin, the editor of the Western Celt. The plant was located where now stands the A. O. U. W. building on Fourteenth Street. Under the new management the paper soon fizzled out and suspended operations in the early part of the following year.

That being a presidential year and the party nominations having been made, the republicans nominated James G. Blaine, and the democrats, Grover Cleveland, the independent or "mug wump" republican of the east having bolted the nomination of Blaine, hope sprang eternal in the hearts of the hungry democrats and much enthusiasm prevailed. A great republican rally was

held at the Academy of Music, 1311 Douglas Street, at which John M. Thurston, General Cowin, General Estabrook, John L. Webster, Ed. Rosewater and W. J. Connell made rousing speeches. A few evenings following, an open meeting was held by the democrats at Fourteenth and Harney, at which A. J. Poppleton, Judge Savage, Dr. George L. Miller, Charles Brown (then a candidate for congress), W. H. Green of Kearney, John P. Irish of Iowa and Park Goodwin (then a candidate for re-election for district attorney) spoke.

About August of that year the republicans of this judicial district, comprising Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Burt counties, held a convention in the old city hall, where now stands the U. S. National Bank building. The purpose of the convention was the nominating of a candidate for district attorney; the two candidates who were presented for nomination were Lee S. Estelle of Blair (now district judge) and Henry D. Estabrook of Omaha (now attorney for the Western Union Telegraph Company and a resident of New York). By a majority of four votes Lee Estelle was nominated and accepted the nomination in a speech full of enthusiasm and with eyes filled with tears in gratitude to the delegates for the honor. This was the first time I had ever heard Henry Estabrook and I was struck by the masterly and eloquent address delivered by him in his promise to support Estelle after having been defeated by the convention a few moments before. This left with me a lasting impression of him, which in years of long and intimate acquaintanceship I never had occasion to change. The heaviest guns of the republican party were directed against Park Goodwin, the democratic nominee, also the powerful influence of Ed Rosewater, with his paper, the Omaha Bee. The principal reasons for the heavy attacks on Mr. Goodwin were because of his prosecution of a few members of the Omaha City Council and Mayor Chase, for malfeasance in office. I was present at one of the many occasions where those investigations were conducted, and when Mr. Goodwin accused the city clerk, J. J. L. C. Jewett, of withholding evidence of an incriminating nature against the defendants; at that preliminary hearing and while addressing the court, Goodwin was so indignant against Jewett, and being possessed of a vicious tongue, he interpreted Jewett's initials to read "John Jackass Logcabin Jewett" (J. J. L. C. Jewett). W. J. Connell, then city attorney, filled the columns of the daily papers with tirades against Goodwin, in addition to stumping the entire district against him, forgetting all of the other candidates, from president to constable. It being a presidential year and the district overwhelmingly republican and the outside counties not being interested in an Omaha fight, Mr. Goodwin was defeated, and Mr. Estelle elected. The democrats having elected their first president since the war, much enthusiasm prevailed; every prominent democrat in the county sent for a blue book, and were for days picking out the

job they wanted. James E. Boyd, and Dr. Miller, editor of the Herald, formed a combination against J. Sterling Morton and Charles H. Brown, for the purpose of distributing the patronage. Because of the number of speeches I had made during the campaign, I was recommended for the position of mail clerk on the Union Pacific road. This came from the Morton faction, with which I had affiliated. A few days before my commission was to arrive, to my disappointment, Boyd and Miller had telegraphed the postmaster general to cancel my appointment and substitute the name of one of their faction, which was promptly done, and that man is still holding the job, and I am thankful for the switch.

It was in the latter part of this year that one of the Indian tribes began to revolt, at the instigation of their chief, Geronimo, and I was assigned by the editor of the Evening Dispatch to interview General Howard, then commander of the Department of the Platte, with headquarters in the Strang building on Tenth and Farnam. I found the general alone in his department, but I soon learned that I had affected an entrance contrary to the rules of red tape, as his orderly, a heavy fat Irishman named Delaney, had left his post for a few minutes, and I happened in at that time. The general was in deep thought, walking the floor. Handing him my card and making known my mission, he looked at me and began to ask how I got in. Had Geronimo himself appeared in place of me, no greater surprise could have been manifested. However, I did not get the interview, nor do I know what the orderly got, as I left; but carried with me a lasting impression of General Howard, one which I seldom recall in church.

This year wound up with the usual commercial activity; the real estate boom was at fever heat; new additions were being daily platted and C. E. Mayne, the king of real estate men, had bands playing, banners flying and an army of men with all makes of vehicles carrying purchasers to auction sales of lots, many of whom soon regretted their investments.

CHAPTER VI.

1885.

In the early part of that year I became bookkeeper for the new real estate firm of Cunningham & Brennan, with offices in the Arlington Block. Of this firm Mr. Cunningham was for many years engaged in the horse-shoeing business; his shop for a number of years was located where now stands the Omaha post-office, where it stood until the property was sold to the United States for the purpose of constructing the present postoffice. Mr. Cunningham at this writing is still living and has ever been classed as a man of sterling integrity, and is now a man of immense wealth. The other member of the firm, Thomas Brennan,

had but recently arrived from Ireland, where in the early eighties he had been secretary of the Irish National Land League, and was forced by the English government to flee to America because of the offensive and prominent part taken by him against the Coercion Acts of that government. He was a man of considerable ability, but of little or no financial resources, but he thrived and prospered, and at the time of his death in Omaha, in 1912, was one of our leading real estate and loan agents.

It was in the spring of this year that the Knights of Labor organized their first assembly in this state. Local Assembly No. 2845 was organized in April of that year at 1412 Farnam, upstairs; its first master workman was Joseph Standeven, a machinist at the Union Pacific shops (afterwards city boiler inspector of Omaha), with Lou Green, also a machinist of the same place, as secretary. I was one of the charter members, and James L. Black, father of Mike Black, of the city engineer's office, was the organizer. So large had become the assembly that it became unwieldy, there being nearly 800 members in less than one year, most of whom were employees of the Union Pacific road. Amongst those most prominent in the assembly at that time were Charles Unitt, present secretary of the Woodmen of the World; Henry Dunn, present chief of police; John Jenkins, United States consul to San Salvador; John Wigman, for years afterwards with the Omaha High School; James Young, David Knox and P. F. Murphy, afterwards mayor of Omaha, and many others who afterwards attained prominence. By reason of the congested condition of this assembly, it became necessary to apply for a charter for an additional assembly. Of this I was also a charter member, and became its first master workman. This assembly was known as Assembly No. 3914 and was composed of members of all legitimate callings (barring only saloon keepers, detectives and lawyers). This assembly had also members who afterwards became prominent, such as Hon. C. J. Smythe, afterwards attorney general for this state for four years, and now deputy attorney general of the United States, who at that time was a clerk in the auditing department of the Union Pacific railroad; Ed Aspenwall and A. Von Trott, cigar manufacturers, and Simon Trosster, afterwards a member of the city council of Omaha; George Kleffner, superintendent of mails in the Omaha postoffice; Captain Henry P. Haze, now deputy United States marshal; Rev. W. E. Copeland and many others still living. This assembly, like many others, soon became unwieldy, having attained a membership of 1,000. It became necessary for us to apply for another charter, which was granted, and the new assembly was known as Assembly No. 2122, and Domnick St. Guyer of the quartermaster's department became its first master workman, with Dr. Lavender as its first secretary, and Charles Wehre, afterwards a member of the board of education, as treasurer. This assembly was generally designated as the "Sunday School Assembly," because of hold-

ing their meetings on each Sunday afternoon. In addition to this later assembly, there were a few others organized in various parts of the city, making enough in numbers so that their hall over 1312-14 Douglas Street was occupied every night and from the various grievances of its individual members, such subjects as the eight-hour labor law, of which the organization took the initiative throughout the country, and to whose efforts is due the credit of having that question first agitated, this being one of the hobbies of its Grand Master Workman, T. V. Powderly. Another subject which was by them taken up and brought to a successful termination was that of free text books in the Omaha public schools; this was a very difficult problem to handle, owing to the heavy opposition of the taxpayers; so great was it that it became an issue in the school board election following the presentment of the matter to the board of education; so popular was it that it was indorsed by an overwhelming majority and the new members immediately put the demand into effect. Time has proven it to be one of the greatest boons in the aid of educating the poor children that has ever fallen to their lot, and I am proud of the prominent part I took in securing the adoption of such a beneficial measure. In this connection, let me state that to Charles Unitt and John Wigman is due most of the credit for having secured the free text book privilege we now enjoy. This organization eventually drifted from its moorings, a step they were frequently warned against taking by their Grand Master Workman Powderly—their drift into politics—which eventually proved their downfall.

I recall the prominent part that the leaders took in the municipal campaign of that year. The candidates for mayor were James E. Boyd, democrat, and the then incumbent of the office, P. F. Murphy. They were captured bag and baggage by Ed. Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, and champion of Mr. Murphy's cause. I will confess to the mild impeachment that I, too, was caught in his grab net, but Mr. Murphy was defeated by a close margin of 51 votes. Yet I soon awoke to a realization of the fact that the organization was fast being used as an auxiliary of the republican party. One more active political campaign and they went out of business; it was the campaign of 1886, when they were again captured by Mr. Rosewater in his effort to re-elect Charles H. VanWyck to the United States senate. This time the game was not quite so raw, as those of us who wore the democrat collar insisted upon representation on the legislative ticket. This was brought about at a meeting held by the prominent members of the organization, one Sunday afternoon at our headquarters, at which time and place we were to select from the two political parties our choice of the nominees, selecting as many as possible from our own members, exacting of them a positive pledge to vote for Van Wycke regardless of their political affiliations. The ones chosen by us at the meeting were all

elected; they were C. J. Smythe, Pat Garvey, Phil Andrews and David Know, democrats, and James Young, George Heimrod, John Mathiesen and Mr. Whitmore of Valley, republicans. When it came to the time for voting for United States senator, only three of our pledged gentlemen voted for Van Wyck; those were C. J. Smythe, George Heimrod and John Mathiesen; the railroads had captured all the others, and Van Wyck was defeated and A. S. Paddock elected. The three men that stood by their pledge were rewarded by repeated election, the others never again.

In the declining days of what was once the greatest and best balanced labor organizations this country ever had there was formed from what was left of it a body since called the Central Labor Union and, while it is not generally known, yet it is none the less true, I was its first president, and it fell to my lot to settle two strikes during my short term in that official position, a painters' strike and that of the laborers who were constructing the Dodge Street cable subway; that was in the fall of 1885. This ended my affiliations with labor organizations. About the middle of that year Mr. Gilbert Hitchcock, now United States senator, started the publication of the Omaha Evening World. I called on him and secured a position on his paper; Dr. Tanner had just arrived in town shortly after, and his first position was that of a reporter on this paper. Will Gurley also did some reporting for it about the same time. It was rather a singular coincident that the little room in which this paper was launched that thirty years thereafter that same company should own the building in which it first started. For this success Mr. Hitchcock deserves the greatest of praise, having weathered a storm of panics that tried men's souls, in which he witnessed the suspension of two of the oldest established newspapers west of the Missouri River—the Republican and Omaha Herald. With Mr. Hitchcock at that time were associated Frank Burkley and Vincent Burkley, his father, and Mr. Burchard and a man named Ruckles of Indiana. In this connection it may not be out of place to relate the story of how Mr. Hitchcock became a democrat and made his World-Herald a democratic organ. It happened in this way: When the Herald and Republican succumbed the senator hired the associate editors of the two defunct papers, Fred Nye, a republican, and Frank Morrissey, a democrat, each to write articles on the tariff, one to be an answer to the other. In alternate issues of the evening paper, this to continue until Mr. Hitchcock was satisfied in his own mind as to which political party had the best of the argument. Whether convinced by the theories of the Cobden Club or having in mind his political future, I do not know; suffice it to say that he became a democrat and is now a democratic United States senator from this state.

I remained on the Evening World but a few months when, together with A. L. Pollack, former editor of the Omaha Herald

and United States weather observer, we purchased from Mrs. McDonough her interest in the Western Watchman, a weekly newspaper once owned and edited by her husband, "Little Mack," as he was generally called, who died a short time before we acquired her interest in the paper. I ran the business end of it and Mr. Pollack did most of the writing; this was about the only weekly published in the English language in Omaha at that time, and because of the happy style of writing, as well as the poignant pen which Mr. Pollack wielded, made the paper very popular, so I experienced no trouble in filling it with advertising matter; my best weekly ads I got from Loyal Smith, N. B. Falkoner, William Bushman, dry goods firms; L. O. Jones, The Two Orphans Clothing Store, N. B. Newman, N. Pollack, Martin Elgutter, Louis Brash, clothiers. My regular monthly ads I secured from Max Meyer, A. B. Huberman and S. Jonason, jewelers; and William Gentleman, Gladstone Bros., William Flemming, Henry St. Felix and Henry Pundt, grocers; from Milton Rogers & Son, Morton & Son, John Hussie & Son and E. T. Duke, hardware men, and George P. Bemis, Boggs and Heill, George Ames & Son, Schriver & Bell, Byron Reed, O. F. Davis, Cunningham & Brennan, John T. Dillon, real estate. I am confident those names are familiar to many of the older residents of Omaha, it being for their special benefit that I make mention of those names.

While managing this paper I had ample time to myself, a part of which I spent at the "Coffin Club," with headquarters at the undertaking parlors of Drexel & Maul's, where at this writing is located the Drexel Shoe Company. This was a club comprised mostly of newspaper men, as I recall it; there was Kendrick, Jyles and Allen of the Bee; Gregory and Ed O'Brien of the Republican; Sands Woodbridge and McDonough of the Herald. Those, with John Drexel, Mike Maul, Charles Goodrich, Dr. Conklin, Major Dennis, George Medlock and Elias Gish and myself generally constituted a quorum for the transaction of business, and in the language of the Hebrew, "O, such a pishness." I recall one occasion where a stranger came in and had no place to stay for the night. He was cheerfully invited to sleep on the cot to his right. Some ten feet away lay a corpse in a coffin. Without the stranger's knowledge, Charley Goodrich got a butcher's dog, a large fat animal, and hid him a short distance from the corpse. During the night the dog snored and occasionally hit the floor with his tail. The stranger was awakened and, thinking that the man in the coffin was trying to get out, he ran for the front door, falling over several coffins placed there for his benefit, broke down the door and never was seen nor heard of since, and for aught I know he is going yet. On another occasion we were determined to rid ourselves of a prominent business man who made it a point every time he got beastly intoxicated to come in and sleep it off on the cot. The chairman of the committee "on ways and means," John Drexel, conceived

the idea of laying him out, and to this end got a lot of candle sticks and candles and lit them all around him and placed a sheet around the cot forming an enclosure. A few hours thereafter Elias Gish hid in a pile of coffins and fired off a gun that sounded like a cannon. The man, half awake, looked around and, thinking he had died, began to pray aloud, but finally woke up to a realization of where he was and walked out the back door and never entered the place again. I see that man every day, and he has never drank a drop from that day to this, yet he is still in ignorance as to who caused it, and will be so unless he reads this story. I regret to say that John Drexel, now city commissioner, Dr. Conklin, Ed O'Brien, Sandy Woodbridge and myself, so far as I know, are the only living members of that jolly bunch.

In the early part of that year there was tried in the District Court the case of the state against a woman named English Liz, who was charged with the murder of Nettie Howard; they were lewd women who lived about Ninth Street and Capitol Avenue. It was claimed that the defendant, English Liz, threw a lighted coal oil lamp at Nettie Howard, setting fire to her clothing, which eventually resulted in her death. This occurrence took place in November, 1884; the case was one of much comment and was stubbornly fought on the part of the state and the defense. Lee S. Estelle, now judge of the District Court, was then county attorney, having taken his office in January following, he then being at the height of his physical and intellectual attainments. The defendant was represented by George W. Shields and W. S. Felker, both of whom are still living in Omaha. The jury acquitted her after more than a week's exciting trial. Nettie Howard's dying confession was heard by Rev. T. W. O'Connor, pastor of St. Philomena's Cathedral, the priest who performed my marriage ceremony.

CHAPTER VII.

1886.

In the early part of that year I severed my connection with Mr. Pollack and the Nebraska Watchman; this was brought about through an article I had written on the marriage of N. B. Falkoner to a Miss Murphy, as I recall her name, one of his clerks, who was a Roman Catholic and married outside of her church. That article stung Mr. Falkoner so hard that he refused the paper any further patronage so long as I remained with it; hence my withdrawal. I then fitted up a store at 1320 Douglas, where for nearly two years I managed a real estate office in connection with my cigar store. Between the real estate and cigar business and the mixing of political medicine, I did a good business, at least a lot of it. This was practically the Knights of Labor headquarters; as they were a considerable factor in politics they had to

be reckoned with, and many the slate that was made or broken in that office. Men almost unknown were brought out by them, nominated and elected, and old war horses shorn of their power. This in a great measure depended upon the exactment as to whether or not they were persona non grata to Ed Rosewater; as I recollect it, all orders came from him, and I am pleased to say they might have come from a far worse source, as he was then at his height in waging war against the railroads, who had this state firmly in their grasp, and it was to him the people looked for relief, and to his memory, let it ever truthfully be said, that in most every effort of his busy life he was true to the interest of the common people. It was here that William Coburn practically received his nomination for sheriff; this was in payment of the debt the Knights of Labor owed him for his support of the free text books proposition which he championed for them while a member of the school board. Much of the organized effort against Church Howe and in favor of John A. McShane for congress had its origin in this office and without even the knowledge of Mr. McShane himself. This was one of the most stubborn fights ever made by Ed Rosewater against any candidate for office, thus resulting in the ignominious defeat of Mr. Howe, in a district normally republican by 7,000 majority.

The real estate boom, which had lasted for nearly five years, was beginning to show signs of weakness. As I was both the beneficiary and the victim of that boom I feel that I am pretty good authority on it. In June of that year I sold to Judge Wakely a house and lot which I had an interest in, on Fifteenth and Marey Streets, for \$8,000. Elated at my success, I purchased two vacant lots on Twenty-seventh Street and Woolworth Avenue for \$3,300. One year from that date Mr. Wakely could not get \$3,500 for his purchase, and I could have bought the adjoining lots later on for \$500 each. The people in the early part of that year were real estate crazy; to illustrate this: Cotner & Archer announced in the evening edition of the Bee that they would place their addition, recently platted, on the market the next day; their office was at the northwest corner of Fifteenth and Harney Streets, and by 7:30 the next morning people were lined up clear to Farnam Street, waiting to buy. They had shrewdly blue-penciled a great number of the choice lots, on the pretense that they were sold, and when the last of the addition was supposed to have been sold, there were many who could not reach the office. As a result, those who had bought or contracted to buy came down the line and sold their options for more than the original price, and not a dollar invested. The choice lots, presumably sold, were contracted for at fabulous prices. As a result 95 per cent of those who had bought lost all they invested, and the lots, no doubt, twenty years afterward could be bought for one-half what they contracted to pay for them. This is but one of the many illustrations of the wild cat boom days which left

many a person with an aching heart and a solemn vow never again to be the victim of a real estate boom.

During that year I met, for the first time, General Crook. He and J. S. Collins bought cigars of me, and I was delighted with his stories of frontier life, and more than pleased to meet such a man as the general. He was a quiet and unassuming person, a man of warm and genial impulses, void of the frills and pomposity usually characteristic of military men of his station and fame. I readily noticed the contrast between him and his predecessor, General O. Howard, and felt then, as I do now, that the memory of General Crook will be more lasting than that of General Howard. However, I may be wrong, yet that will always remain my impression of those two great men.

During the previous year Mayor Boyd had sought to remove the city marshal, Tom Cummings, and the street commissioner, Mike Meaney, both being holdovers from the Chase-Murphy regime. Cummings was a short, heavy-set Scotchman, who prior to his appointment had for years been a blacksmith in the Union Pacific shops; he was a rough and uncouth kind of man, with a genial disposition, knowing nothing whatever of the duties and responsibilities of his office, but kept and retained for political purposes only. Mayor Boyd appointed many good and capable men for the place, all democrats, each of whom failed of confirmation, the council being republican; a like fate met his appointment of street commissioner. The fight against the removal of those men was waged by Michael Lee and Ed Leeder in the city council. Later on when the council wanted to remove those men the mayor refused to do so.

In the latter part of that year ex-Mayor Murphy died very unexpectedly. His funeral was one of the largest, if not the largest, ever held in Omaha. Every labor organization and other lodges of which he was a member turned out and marched in the procession, which extended from Tenth Street to Twenty-fourth and Farnam Streets. I was one of the pallbearers; he was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, and I never visit the place that I don't place a flower on his grave, for he and I had long been friends. It was I who induced him to run for the city council, where subsequent events resulted in his becoming mayor for nearly a year. The present he gave me at my wedding I shall long cherish. In politics Mr. Murphy was a republican; in religious matters he was an agnostic; in all his public and private life he was honest, truthful and conscientious, a lover of liberty and a hater of oppression. That year I received the democratic nomination for the school board and had as my running mates W. A. L. Gibbon, then a member of the board, and Phillip Andrews. We carried what was then known as the lower wards, but were beaten by Herbert Davis, later judge of the District Court; W. E. Cope-

land, an Unitarian minister, now located somewhere in Washington, and T. W. Blackburn, then a clerk in the Union Pacific headquarters and now a practicing attorney in Omaha and late candidate for congress, all republicans. I recall an incident in that campaign which happened in this way: I met Henry D. Estabrook on the street, taking him for Herb Davis, my opponent; I invited him in to take a drink. After taking it Estabrook said, "Morearty, I am not Davis, but I am his law partner, and in this case I am doing the drinking for him, as is the rule in any agreeable law firm."

In this year the Coliseum on Twentieth and Burdette Streets was built; it is now used as the Ak-Sar-Ben den. It was originally intended for national conventions and gatherings of unusual size, but for a number of years it was managed by Jack Prince for bicycle races, tug-of-war and such other sports as prevailed in those days. It proved a very unprofitable investment to the original stockholders, and were it not for the revenue derived from the Ak-Sar-Ben, would no doubt long since have been torn down. Prior to its purchase by this organization there were held there many gatherings of note. In 1892 there was the first national political convention ever held in Omaha—the Populist convention, when J. B. Weaver, the chairman, received the nomination on that ticket for the presidency. Patti, the great singer, warbled there in 1890; Mme. Nordiea sang there in 1907; the world's convention of the Presbyterian Synod convened there in 1902; the Thurston and Bryan joint debate took place there in 1894. This was when they were both candidates for United States senator from Nebraska. Theodore Roosevelt, while president of the United States in 1907, spoke there, General Charles F. Mander-son presiding. About the same time the Exposition building was constructed; it was large and commodious, being located on Capitol Avenue, embracing almost the entire block from Fourteenth to Fifteenth Streets and Davenport Street to Capitol Avenue. It contained a large hall, used mostly for dancing, church fairs and state conventions. Here one of the first charity balls was given, the elite of the city attending, and it proved a huge financial success. There was also a stage in the hall and many good plays were seen there. For about six years the city council met in this building, where was also located the city jail and police court. It burned down December 4, 1894.

CHAPTER VIII.

1887.

This year opened with a very late spring, heavy snows lasting until April, when we were suddenly ushered into the full heat of summer. The real estate boom had declined, rents began to lower and foreclosures of real estate mortgages started; the ear-marks

of depression had begun to form, this being the forerunner of one of the greatest eras of real estate depreciations and stringencies in the money market this country had ever witnessed, both in stringency and duration. In the early part of that year I disposed of both my real estate and cigar business, having found a buyer with more money than brains. I sold to good advantage and then proceeded to devote my entire attention to the building of my home on Twenty-seventh Street and Woolworth Avenue, where I resided for eleven years.

In May the city election was held, fraught with the usual excitement incident to those days; James E. Boyd, the then incumbent, carried four of the then six wards of Omaha, but failed to carry the other two. An effort was made to nominate him by acclamation, but Charles Brown and myself, who had defeated him in those two wards, demanded a call of the wards, and I recall very distinctly what Mr. Brown said to the convention after the call of the wards was discussed: "Mr. Chairman, I have always understood that acclamation meant by unanimous consent, and this is not unanimous by a darn sight, and it never will be either in or out of this convention." I spoke along the same strain, then Mr. Boyd, pale as a sheet, walked up to the platform and addressed the convention in this language: "Gentlemen: I was the originator of public improvements in Omaha and I have labored during my two terms as mayor of this city to advance and build it up. I have been hampered during the past two years with an adverse city council who have sought to tie my hands, and I would be pleased with another term with a friendly council, but from what I have heard said in this convention and knowing the men who have expressed themselves, I have no desire to face another election, only to be scalped by Comanche Indians." Mr. Boyd declining, Joseph Garnau was nominated. He was wealthy, yet inexperienced in politics and was easily defeated by his republican opponent, W. J. Broach, as cunning, as slick and as shrewd a politician as this state ever produced, with but one exception, that of R. B. Howell, now manager of the city water works. It was that year that Lake Manawa opened, and the novelty of the occasion gave it great patronage; in fact it was to this place what Long Beach was to the people of New York City. I recall a very sad accident at the place shortly after its opening, that was the drowning of Sam Newman, a very bright young Omaha boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newman, who ran a clothing store at 1214 Farnam Street. If I remember correctly, the body was not recovered for some six weeks after the drowning.

During the month of September of that year the two old political parties held their county conventions. Being a delegate to the democratic convention, I recall very clearly some of the results of it. It was held in the Exposition building, and James

E. Riley was made chairman, and during most of the time ruled with an iron hand. The old spirit of the fight between the Boyd-Miller faction and that of the Morton-Brown faction was in evidence. A test of strength came in the nomination for the office of county judge. I presented the name of C. J. Smythe, and Paddy Ford that of George W. Shields to the convention. Behind the forces of Mr. Shields were James E. Boyd, Dr. George L. Miller, C. V. Gallagher, Charles Fanning, Charles Ogden, Jeff McGeath, Pat Ford, C. S. Montgomery, James Creighton and Hugh Clark, while those supporting Mr. Smythe were Charles Brown, J. J. O'Connor, Euclid Martin, T. J. Mahoney and myself. A rolleall being had, Shields was nominated by a majority of three votes. The republicans nominated for this office Dave Mercer, who had recently arrived in Omaha from Brownsville, Nebraska. The fight was a hard, though not a bitter one, the Omaha Herald, through its editor, George L. Millar, vigorously supporting Mr. Shields, and with equal vigor the Omaha Republican, through its editor, Fred Nye, supporting Mr. Mercer, while the Omaha Bee, edited by Ed Rosewater, remained neutral, leaning slightly toward Mr. Shields. T. J. Mahoney, Charles Ogden, C. S. Montgomery and myself stumped the county for Shields, while John M. Thurston, Will Gurley and Ed Simmeral did likewise for Mr. Mercer. Mr. Shields was elected by 2,500 majority in a then almost hopelessly republican county, he being the second and to this day the only democrat ever elected to that office in this county. The following election Mr. Shields succeeded himself. It was at those conventions that the democrats made their respective nominations for sheriff and clerk of the District Court. George Guye, for sheriff, and Gustave Beneke, for clerk, were the democratic nominees, while William Coburn, for sheriff, and Frank E. Moores, for clerk, were the republican nominees. The republican nominees were elected.

CHAPTER IX.

1888.

On January 4 of this year George Shields was installed as county judge and I was appointed clerk of that court, succeeding George Gurley, Judge Shields succeeding Judge McCullough.

Just one week thereafter, on January 12, occurred the greatest and most severe blizzard the state has ever experienced. The early part of that day was beautiful, the sun shining brightly; there was good sleighing; the river was frozen so that it was safe to cross in sleighs; many people visited Council Bluffs to attend an auction sale of lots. About 4 o'clock, as Judges Shields and McCullough were preparing to leave the court room, a few snow flakes struck the window and it grew darker. I was ordered to close for the day. Judge Shields went to some club, where he was forced to stay all night. I went to Gladstone's store for

groceries and incidentally purchased a gallon demijohn of rye and caught the last horse car (at 5 p. m.) at Thirteenth and Farnam Streets, the cars then running up Farnam and south on Twenty-eighth Street to Hanscom Park, where I lived. The passengers were forced to get out and help push the car up the Farnam Street hill, when about 8 o'clock we got to Twenty-eighth and Dewey Avenue, where we remained until 10:30. The car was loaded with the elite of the Hanscom Park district, both men and women; the storm still raged and the thermometer was fast falling; it was then and there that my demijohn came into place and worked overtime—every passenger in the car welcomed it as a life-saver; even the Billy Sundays partook of it. Finally at 11:30 p. m. I arrived at the car barn at Woolworth and Park Avenues. So great was the blizzard and so drifting the snow that I was an hour trying to find my way to my home, but three blocks away. I was about as close to being all in as I ever care to be within the next twenty-five years, yet my demijohn caused me no unnecessary trouble, as it was empty long before the car reached its destination. It was on that day that a school teacher in the western part of the state, a Miss Freeman, proved herself a heroine. School had been let out for the day; the children had gone but a short distance and were not far from the school when the storm came up. By a shrewd move she succeeded in stopping them, and with the use of a ball of twine tied to each pupil, then to herself, she succeeded in making her way to the schoolhouse, where, by means of exercise and the burning of every movable article in the school, she saved the lives of some thirty children, but was herself badly frozen. Through her act she gained world-wide deserved praise. This lady afterwards came to Omaha and was engaged as bookkeeper for the C. B. Havens Coal Company; she was afterwards married and no doubt today is forgotten in the whirligig of time.

It was in this year that Mayor Broach began his crusade of reform against the saloons and the red light district, an element that proved the biggest factor in his election. He started by ordering the saloons closed at 1 o'clock at night; many of the owners obeyed the order, but one man in particular positively refused; his name was Charles Higgins, who ran a restaurant and gambling house in addition to his saloon. He was located on the southwest corner of Twelfth and Douglas Streets; he was a man of much political influence in the Third ward; in fact, he was to the Third ward then what Tom Dennison afterwards and today is. So obstinate and defiant was this man that he suffered himself to be arrested and fined in the police court every day for more than two months, resulting in the ruination of his business, and eventually breaking him up financially. In this connection it may not be out of place to state that Mr. Higgins had the assurance of Mayor Broach, prior to the election, that neither he nor his business would be molested in the event of his election.

I was present when Mr. Broach, then a candidate for mayor, made that promise; Mr. Higgins had his doubts as to Mr. Broach's fulfillment of his promises, and wanted additional assurance. Shortly thereafter (the same afternoon) Mr. Broach, in company with Senator Manderson, came to Mr. Higgins' place and both firmly assured him that he would not be interfered with. Relying upon that high and double assurance, Mr. Higgins placed all of his hacks and others to the number of more than a dozen, at Mr. Broach's service on election day. I was present on both occasions when that promise was given. Results afterwards showed whether or not Mr. Broach kept his word. The way of the transgressor may be hard, but the average person would have more respect for the transgressor than for the violator of a solemn promise, but what are promises to sham reformers—they are but pie crusts, made only to be broken. From such reformers may the good Lord deliver the people, both now and hereafter.

It was during that year that the site for the present post-office was selected and men were appointed to appraise the grounds. John A. McShane was then congressman from this district, and much rejoicing prevailed at the news of the location, as many sites were under consideration, and much comment was heard because of the fact that on the site selected was a house and lot owned by the Folsom estate, of which President Cleveland's wife was an heir. The property referred to was the old Planters' House and stood on the northwest corner of Sixteenth and Dodge Streets; that, however did not interfere with the location, and time has proven the wisdom of the selection, as none better could have been made.

That was a national campaign year, when the pent-up enthusiasm was given vent, and it certainly reached its limit in Omaha at least. Big rallies, gay uniforms, men on foot and horseback, brigades of clubs and organizations of all kinds and classes were in line, torchlights and bands galore, men marching and counter-marching, presenting more the appearance of war than peace. I recall one club in particular, the "McShane Invincibles," who wore a uniform more gorgeous than the king of Ak-Sar-Ben; they were organized in the interest of McShane's candidacy for governor. The democrats won applause with their "Samoset Club," which was organized along the line of the Tammany Hall club of New York, and was in charge of James E. Boyd and James Riley, during the many parades.

During that year a number of banks were started in different parts of the city. One of them was owned by Garlick & Johnson and was on the corner of Sixteenth and California Streets; it was operated until 1893, when it merged with one of the other banks; it had a liberal patronage, but was unable to weather the financial crises then beginning to be felt all over the country.

The Bank of Omaha was located on the southeast corner of Thirteenth and Jackson Streets and was organized by Peter Goos, Frank Wasserman and Charles Needham. It went into the hands of a receiver in 1889. Another was started on the northeast corner of Twenty-fourth and Cuming Streets; I do not know who the managers were, but recall that Albert Saunders was one of the heavy stockholders. I am of the opinion that it went out of business about the year 1893, for the same reason that the Garlie & Johnson bank did. Another bank was organized by a few politicians, namely, Pat Ford, Adam Snyder and a few other members of the city council, with C. E. Mayne, then chairman of the board of public works of Omaha, as its president. It was located at 324 South Fifteenth Street, and led a short and sorrowful life. Then came the Nebraska Savings Bank, with a man named Miles as president; John Rush, vice president, and Dexter L. Thomas, cashier. This bank did a heavy business, but failed in 1895, causing great loss to the depositors, many of whom were very poor people who lost the savings of a lifetime. This bank was in the Board of Trade building, Sixteenth and Farnam Streets.

The county convention of the democratic party met in September of that year for the purpose of nominating a county ticket. I was a delegate and, as was usual in such conventions, pandemonium reigned. Charles Offut was chairman and, while he ruled fairly and impartially, yet he showed a leaning towards the Boyd-Millar faction. This became apparent when the nominations for county attorney and county clerk were presented to the convention. James E. Riley presented the name of W. S. Shoemaker, and I that of T. J. Mahoney. A ballot being had, Mr. Mahoney was nominated by a majority of two votes. Mr. Shoemaker's friends cried, "Fraud," "Sell Out" and many other such endearing things and demanded a poll of the convention, which the chairman, contrary to all parliamentary rules and usages, granted. The poll being taken, Mahoney gained one vote additional, and was declared the nominee of the convention. This defeat was laid to me by Mr. Shoemaker, and I think justly so. At the caucus held the night before the primary, in the pavilion at Hanscom Park, in the Seventh ward, the delegation as there selected was made up of a combination of Shoemaker and Roche delegates. Not being favorable to those candidates, my friends and I were left off the delegation; the same night John Mahoney and I met and placed an entirely new ticket in the field. No one knew of a contest until too late; the day of the primary our ticket was elected—and that was the delegation that gave Mahoney the nomination and defeated M. D. Roche for renomination for county clerk. At that convention John Boyd was nominated for sheriff and Peter O'Malley for county clerk. At that time I was clerk under County Judge Shields, he being one of Mr. Shoemaker's strongest supporters. I could reasonably expect the kind

of reception I would get the next morning after the convention, and I recall it very distinctly: at noon I was asked to step out in the hall to make room for a delegation who waited on Mr. Shields for the purpose of demanding my removal from office. I anticipated such and made use of the phone, calling my friends to my rescue. On the judge's return at 2 p. m. he found another delegation waiting for him, who informed him that in the event of my discharge his renomination was doubtful. With the two delegations the judge was between the "devil and the deep sea." With the packing house democrats (as the Boyd faction was called) and the slaughter house democrats (the Morton faction) he must have been up against it good and plenty; however, I was not discharged, and the democratic ticket as nominated was elected.

This same year two large buildings were thrown open to the public, the First National, at Thirteenth and Farnam Streets, and the New York Life building, Seventeenth and Farnam, now the Omaha National Bank building. Shortly after the democratic convention the republicans held theirs at the old Exposition building, and in place of pandemonium reigning, bedlam was let loose. The office of sheriff was the bone of contention. William Coburn, the sheriff, was seeking renomination; his only opponent was the then president of the city council, Michael Lee, who received the majority of votes. After the secretary had announced the result, some of the delegates wished to change their votes and the chairman, W. F. Bechtel, permitted them to do so, and Mr. Coburn was given the nomination, but was defeated.

One of the largest social gatherings up to that year took place early in February. It was given by Judge Dundy and family at their palatial residence on Twenty-ninth and Leavenworth Streets. All of Omaha's elite, including the army officers and wives of Fort Omaha were there, and while I lay no claims to expert knowledge of fine clothes, I must say that there was presented the grandest I have ever seen. This reception was followed by many others given by the leaders of Omaha society during that winter, but not on such a large scale.

CHAPTER X.

1889.

The early part of 1889 was dry and extremely cold, continuing so through the month of March, then suddenly emerging into summer. The republican party having again taken the reins of government, many who were declared offensive partisans were again looking toward the pie counter, as President-elect Harrison was looked upon as a stalwart republican. In the formation and selection of his cabinet, many people were sure that Nebraska

would be favored with one office, it being freely predicted that the office of postmaster general would go to this state, and that Ed Rosewater would be the one to get it. Nebraska, however, did not get a cabinet office, and many were disappointed.

By an act of the legislature of 1887, through the influence of Mayor Broach, the usual spring election in Omaha was deferred to December, leaving Mr. Broach in office seven additional months longer than the regular term.

In November of that year the republicans held their city primary, which proved to be the most memorable of any ever held in Omaha; the issue was squarely drawn between Rosewater and Broach; it was a life and death struggle between those two men for the control of the political machinery of the republican party in this city. On the Broach side were the cohorts of the various corporations comprising the Gas, Electric Light, Water Works and the Street Railway companies, aided and assisted by all who had, or expected, city contracts; also city employees; while on the other side were the brewers, saloon keepers, gamblers and hack drivers. Such a disgraceful primary was never held in any republic; men voted from three to five times and often ten times that day; wagons and all kinds of vehicles were used to carry men from one voting place to another, and there voted regardless of residence or political affiliations. Every ward heeler was liberally supplied with money, whiskey and street car tickets; the voting places were amply guarded by the right kind of a police officer, whose chief duty it was to obey orders from the ward boss. The next day the men, good and true, the honestly elected representatives of the party, assembled to carry out the wishes of the dear people who sent them. There being no contests, woe be unto the people who dare question their loyalty to the G. O. P. Ed Davis of the Ninth ward was elected chairman, and the following names were presented to the convention: W. J. Broach, A. L. Strang, George W. Lininger and Dr. Mercier for mayor. There were seven delegates from each of the nine wards, requiring thirty-one votes in which to secure a nomination. The convention lasted until midnight of that Saturday, Mayor Broach holding his twenty-eight votes from start to finish, the balance of the vote being scattered between the rest of the candidates. Herman Kountze, president of the First National Bank, was elected and an effort was made to bring Mr. Kountze into the convention. This being rumored, the opponents of Broach combined against him and centered on Mr. Lininger, who received thirty-one votes, getting the nomination. I never beheld a more sorrowful and dejected looking body of men in my life than were the twenty-eight delegates who went down in defeat with Mr. Broach. It was the three Mercier votes from the Seventh ward that were turned to Lininger that ended the agony. After the convention had finished its business, the loyal twenty-eight delegates who

stood by Broach, formed an organization which for years was known as the "Solid 28" and for years was an important factor in republican politics in this county; they were generally known as anti-Rosewater, and proved true to that solemn declaration even to this day. The most prominent men in that solid compact were John W. McDonald, Charles Unitt, E. P. Davis, C. L. Chaffee, A. B. Hunt, Ed Taylor, Henry Dunn, John Butler, Lee Yates, Henry McDonald, B. G. Burbank and R. B. Howell.

The following Saturday the city democratic convention was held at Washington hall. Not a candidate for mayor was heard of until the convention convened, when Frank Morrissey presented the name of R. C. Cushing for that office. Though having served a term in the legislature from this county, he was scarcely known to any of the delegates to the convention, yet he was nominated by acclamation. Each of the nine wards had their delegates instructed for their respective candidates for councilmen-at-large. Having had no opposition at the primaries from my ward (the Seventh), I was nominated as were the others, by acclamation. At the election Mr. Cushing defeated Mr. Lininger by 2,500 votes, and five democratic councilmen out of the nine were elected; they were B. F. Madsen, from the First ward; James Donnelly Sr., from the Second; Henry Osthoff, from the Fifth; myself, from the Seventh, and Frank Cooper, from the Ninth; while the republicans elected were W. F. Beehtel, from the Fourth ward; Theodore Olson, from the Eighth; John McLearnie, from the Sixth, and F. L. Bloomer, from the Ninth; the Third ward having elected no one, the Ninth elected two members. This was a bitterly contested election, the principal fight however being waged on the office of mayor and city treasurer. The nominees were John Rush, republican, and James McShane, democrat. The treasurer's office was more a fight of the banks than that of the people, and Mr. Rush was re-elected.

In May of that year a woman by the name of Mrs. Beehler was tried in the District Court for the murder of King, a son of a millionaire clothing man of Philadelphia, with a branch house in Omaha, under the name of Browning, King & Co. On November 14, 1888, this woman registered at the Paxton Hotel, and invited Mr. King there. After conversing for some time in the rotunda of the hotel, he arose and started toward the Farnam entrance, when Mrs. Beehler whipped out a revolver from some hiding place in her clothing, fired two shots at him, both taking effect, and he died almost instantly. The woman was arrested by Sheriff Coburn and placed in the Douglas county jail, where she remained until after her trial. This case was tried before Judge Louis Groff and lasted ten days, the court room during that time being filled to its utmost capacity and from early morning until the adjournment of court. Most of the audience were women. T. J. Mahoney, then county attorney, prosecuted vigorously; Mrs.

Bechtel being ably defended by General John C. Cowin. The case, after one whole day's argument, was submitted to the jury, who returned a verdict of "not guilty," whereupon she was released and left for parts unknown, except possibly to General Cowin, her attorney.

CHAPTER XI.

1890.

The year 1890 found me at my usual place in the county judge's office. After many years spent in the study of law under Attorneys Sam Balliet and Albert Swartzlander, I was on January 9, 1890, admitted to the practice of law, after having passed a successful examination before James McIntosh, now general attorney for the New York Life Insurance company; James P. English, now judge of the District Court, and Henry D. Estabrook, now of New York. Hon. Joseph S. Clarkson was the judge who administered the oath, the motion for admission being made by Hon. James P. English. The organization of the new city council was perfected on the first Tuesday in January, and there was much speculation as to its formation; there were ten republicans and eight democrats. Four of the newly elected democrats, Cooper, Osthoff, Madsen and myself, with one hold-over, Ed O'Connor, joined with Chaffee, Davis, McLearn, Wheeler, Schriver, Olson and Bloomer, republicans, and, contrary to expectations and to the surprise of those in the combine, elected Chaffee president of the council in place of Davis, who expected it, and John Groves, city clerk, in place of Harry Counseman, the one most sanguine of it. The mayor appointed A. J. Poppleton city attorney, and he was confirmed; he also appointed R. S. Irvine, a friend of Councilman Davis, for city prosecutor. I secured his defeat, and in his place and stead I had the mayor appoint W. S. Shoemaker. This I did in order to repay him for having defeated him in a convention for the office of county attorney when T. J. Mahoney received the nomination. Mr. Shoemaker was confirmed. The completion and formation of that council was very distasteful to Mr. Rosewater of the Bee, and nothing to his satisfaction was carried on during the lifetime of that council; the mayor coming in for his share likewise. Notwithstanding that, that council was one of the most economical and progressive that Omaha ever had; his malediction was heaped upon every member of the twelve men who formed the combination; they were the ones upon whom he conferred for the first time the famous title of "Corporation Cormorants" and Venal Vampires." I am positive they did not deserve such a name, and cannot say why it was applied; speaking for myself, I know that I had voted for no steal, nor given to any corporation by my vote any rights, privileges or concessions not justly due them, and the only way that I can account for the title so far as it

applied to me was when I refused to make the Morning Bee the paper in which all city legal notices should be published, as against the Morning World-Herald. I offered to vote for his bid providing he would use the same figures for the Evening Bee as those offered by the Morning World-Herald. I informed him that his morning paper did not circulate among the taxpayers, and I was not going to impose upon the public for his benefit or anyone else's. That is the only reason I could ever assign for my merit to the title of "Corporation Cormorant and Venal Vampire." Every effort thereafter put forth by me in the interest of the public, no matter how laudable, both the effort and myself were by him ridiculed and denounced. Rather than remain under the stigma of the title referred to, members Chaffey, Davis, Schriver and Wheeler began the taking of testimony before Gustave Anderson, a justice of the peace, with a view to laying the foundation for an action for criminal libel or a civil action against Mr. Rosewater. Having taken the testimony of a few men, the cause was continued for twenty days; in the meantime the matter was dropped, Mr. Rosewater agreeing to publish editorially a retraction of the article, which agreement he kept.

It was during the early career of that council that I incurred the displeasure of the president of the Omaha Street Railway Company, Mr. Murphy. It was brought about in this way: The Harney Street line from Twenty-eighth and Dodg Streets to Tenth and Mason Streets was operated by cable, which system the company in May of that year discontinued, and in addition intended to discontinue the operation of the line, contending that it too closely paralleled the Farnam and Dodge Street lines, but the patrons of the line vehemently protested, in fact remonstrated against this action, and appealed to the city council for redress, where, I regret to say, they were given a deaf ear with the exception of myself. I took up their cause and for ten consecutive meetings of the council I introduced a resolution compelling the company to either operate the line or forfeit its franchise to the streets used. My resolution invariably met its fate at the hands of Member W. F. Beehtel, in his motion to lay it on the table, thereby shutting off debate. At the end of the eleventh week the company made a proposition to the council that if they were given ninety days in which to make the change they would equip the line with electric cars, which promise they fully carried out. Meeting Mr. Murphy on the street some six months after the line was put in operation, I asked him "how it was working." His reply was that "he was losing \$250 a month on it," and gave me "divine notice," as he termed it, that I would never fill another public office in Omaha. So far his prediction has proven true; yet the operating of the Harney line furnishes me more satisfaction than any political office I would care to fill.

It was in this year that the agitation for the annexation of South Omaha got its initiative, which project originated with Ed. Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee. Mr. Rosewater came to my office in the early part of June of that year and asked me to become enlisted in his fight, which I promised to do and did so. Shortly thereafter at his request I introduced a resolution in the city council which provided for an election to be held for that purpose, which resolution was adopted. At the next meeting of the council of South Omaha Mr. Rosewater and myself attended, and had a like resolution adopted. A day was set and the election was held, Omaha supporting it by a big majority. It was defeated by a few votes in South Omaha, through the efforts of Tom Hoctor, John Ryan and John O'Rourke. I am pleased to know that in June, just twenty-five years thereafter, Mr. Rosewater's and my efforts became a living realization and the two cities are now one. I having the good fortune to see it, Mr. Rosewater did not; yet to his efforts and to the continuous agitation by his paper through his son, Vietor, is due more than to any other agency the credit for bringing about final annexation.

That year we were called upon to vote on the constitutional amendment submitted by the Legislature of 1889, which amendment submitted to the people of the state the question as to whether or not the people wanted constitutional prohibition in this state. This was the most interesting proposition ever presented to the people of the state, and one that enlisted more people in its opposition than a question of any other nature could have done. Party lines were almost eliminated, even religious denominations were divided on the question to the extent of almost causing schisms in their churches. The state republican convention endorsed prohibition and nominated Mr. Richards of Fremont for Governor; the democrats refused to endorse prohibition at its state convention, and at Omaha in August nominated James E. Boyd for Governor. The populists nominated John Powers for Governor and endorsed prohibition. The two vital questions at issue were the election of Mr. Boyd and the defeat of prohibition, other political questions and all the other candidates were lost sight of. By consent of all the parties interested in those two issues, Ed. Rosewater was placed in general charge and was given plenary powers, which he did not abuse, but most skillfully made use of. The Supreme Court for some reason or other declared the registration law defective, thereby dispensing with registration in Omaha. As a consequence every man who presented himself was given the right to vote, a right and privilege which I assure you was exercised on that occasion. I am not exaggerating when I say that Omaha never looked so good since or before as it did to the people of Council Bluffs on that day, and the test of the strength of our foot bridge between Omaha and there was never more fully put to the test than on that occasion. Up to the time Mr. Boyd got his nomination for

Governor I had never spoken to him since the time I contributed to his refusal to run for mayor the third time. This reconciliation was brought about at Mr. Boyd's own request through Ed. Rosewater, in his appeal to me to protect the state from the blight of prohibition. At Mr. Rosewater's request I made a number of speeches in support of his fight, for which acts I have no reasons to regret nor any apology to offer. Prohibition was defeated, Mr. Boyd was elected and Nebraska has ever since been kept in the coldumns of the safe, sane and progressive states of the Union. It was this year that W. J. Bryan first appeared upon the political horizon. Little was known of him here until he made a speech in Boyd's Theater, one year before the time of Mr. Boyd's nomination for Governor. He spoke on the tariff, and everyone there was taken by surprise at his able elucidation of his subject. A few months afterward the Democratic County Convention was held in Omaha and delegates were selected to the Congressional Convention at Lincoln. I was one of those chosen, and for the first time I met Mr. Bryan. He was sitting on a barrel near the sidewalk and was wearing a short alpaca coat. He soon informed me that he was a candidate for Congress. I asked him how he stood on the prohibition question. He said that "he was his own prohibitionist," and studiously evaded the question, and the laughable part of it was that he got away with it. Major W. S. Paddock of Douglas County was selected as chairman of the convention and there were four candidates before it—Mr. Bryan, M. V. Gannon, Mayor Cushing of Omaha and Judge Bibbs of Beatrice. W. R. Vaughan, ex-mayor of Council Bluffs, and then editor of the Omaha Democrat, was pushing Mr. Gannon; I was supporting Mayor Cushing; the Gage County delegates were supporting Mr. Bibbs, and the Lancaster County delegation, Mr. Bryan, backed by Frank R. Morrissey, former editor of the Omaha Herald, and at that time health commissioner of Omaha. There was no choice on the first ballot. The Douglas County delegation in the meantime were indulging in the pastime of crimination and recrimination. Mr. Bryan finding this his opportune time, walked hurriedly up to the platform and in a burst of eloquence appealed to the Douglas County delegation for harmonious action, stating that if he received the nomination he would look to Douglas County for the biggest part of his vote. This proved a master-stroke of diplomacy, and as a result the delegation gave him the unanimous vote of the county, and he was nominated—hence the commencement of Mr. Bryan's eventful political career. On his first visit to Omaha after his nomination I met him on the celebrated Wabash Corner, Fifteenth and Farnam Streets. He was surrounded by a crowd of democrats, among whom were James E. Boyd, C. V. Gallagher, Frank Morrissey, T. A. Megeath, Paddy Ford, Charles Ogden, P. W. Lynch, Andy Monahan and Al. Cogsall. He hailed me and said he wanted me to take him through the First and Second

wards of Omaha some night at my leisure. A few nights afterwards we made the trip, accompanied by George Holmes and John Murphy, both of the Second ward, and both yet living here. Mr. Holmes is now an attorney, and Mr. Murphy is in the employ of the government in the commissary department. The only canvass one could make in those days after dark was through the saloons, and the first one we entered was on the northwest corner of Sixteenth and William Streets, run by Charles Kam-erah. I called for the drinks, and there were some ten men in the saloon; all took beer except Mr. Bryan, who drank a soda. I asked the proprietor for the bill which he said was \$7.50. I told him to call at my office next day and I would pay it. Among other saloons visited was the one in the old Kasper Hall, now Metz Hall. There were some twenty men there sitting at tables drinking "bulacecks," or big glasses of beer. Mr. Bryan asked the crowd to have a cigar with him, but they drank their "cigars." I told the proprietors to send the bill to me, which was \$12.60. The next morning my creditors called for their money, and when I told them I was the one and not Mr. Bryan who was paying those bills, they cut 450 per cent in one case and 900 in the other. I simply mention the reductions to show how candidates were held up in those days. Mr. Bryan had as his opponent W. J. Connell of Omaha, who was seeking his second term. During one of Mr. Connell's speeches he had occasion to refer to the reduction of the tariff on nails, as advocated in the democratic platform. This utterance of his proved very unfortunate for him in his campaign, as was evidenced from their joint debate in the old Exposition building here. Mr. Bryan carried with him a wire nail and used it to illustrate the need of it in the homes of the people of the west, and their inability to buy them because of the republican high tariff. From and after that debate Mr. Connell lost heart in his campaign, and as a result Mr. Bryan was elected by a majority of 10,000 votes, and in a republican congressional district.

CHAPTER XII.

1891.

The year 1891 was not one of great achievement for Omaha. The general stagnation of business throughout the country was beginning to be felt here as elsewhere. This, added to the drouth which prevailed for some time in the middle west, causing the loss of crops, much depreciation in land values and general unrest among the people. This condition of things was not confined to that year alone, but became worse each year for the period of six years, as will be told in another chapter of these Recollections. Early in January James E. Boyd was installed as Governor of the State and the only governor that Omaha produced since the

State was admitted to the Union. His entrance, however, was not by or through the door of easy access, as the day before he was to take his seat I was one of a party that accompanied him to Lincoln. He looked fatigued, disheartened and discouraged, because his opponent on the populist ticket was contesting his seat. The House had a majority of populist members, who were determined to gain possession of the organization and in joint session declare Mr. Powers governor. This attempt, however, was thwarted by a large delegation of men from Omaha, who, in spite of the State Militia, who were patrolling the corridors of the State Capitol, forced in the door of the House of Representatives and installed George D. Meiklejohn, the newly elected Lieutenant Governor, as presiding officer of the joint session of both houses, who immediately declared Mr. Boyd the duly elected Governor, whereupon he forthwith took the oath of office, it being administered by Chief Justice Maxwell. Poor Boyd! he was not yet permitted to sleep on a bed of roses. His citizenship was brought into question by his predecessor, Governor Thayer, refusing to vacate the office. Our Supreme Court sustained Thayer's contention and he retained possession of the office, which he held pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, where Mr. Boyd's eligibility was sustained and he again was inaugurated in glow and splendor in April, 1892. In this contest John L. Webster of Omaha was counsel for Mr. Thayer, and General John C. Cowin for Governor Boyd. While this narrative was not really an Omaha happening, yet the people of Omaha were at the time as much interested in the outcome as though it had happened here, Mr. Boyd being an old and honored resident of this city at the time; hence my reason for inserting it.

It was during this year that President Harrison paid a visit to Omaha on his return from the Pacific Coast and pending the Boyd-Thayer contest. A few days prior to his arrival I introduced in the city council a resolution which was adopted, which in substance placed the council on record as declaring that one John M. Thayer, being an usurper of the office of Governor of this State, that on that occasion he be treated and classed as a private citizen, and that James E. Boyd be recognized as the Governor of the State, and that he be accorded that honor. This resolution met with the hearty approval of the people of Omaha. On the arrival of Mr. Thayer and his staff at the depot, only shrewd diplomacy on the part of Councilman Tom Lowry, who had charge of the parade, prevented a riot, as Mr. Thayer had read of the action of the city council and, being a pompous and fiery old gentleman, he manifested a firm determination to resent what he termed an insult to his high official position. Without his knowledge he was placed some twenty carriages behind Mr. Boyd, and he never knew the difference until the day he died. Had he been in front I am confident his presence would have created a riot. The President and Jerry Rusk, his secretary of agri-

culture, made speeches from a platform erected on the northeast corner of the old Court House terrace, Seventeenth and Farnam Streets. While here the President was the guest of former United States Senator Alvin Saunders, whose daughter married the President's son, Russell. A reception was held at the Saunders residence on Sherman Avenue and Clark Street. It was my pleasure to be one of the guests on that occasion.

There sprang up in our midst that year a plague far greater than the locust plague of Egypt, nay, even the yellow fever of the south—the la grippe of that year, or the memorable “hook worm.” This plague was dignified by bearing the name of “American Protective Association” (A. P. A.) God save the mark. Be it said to the credit of the native born American citizens, there were few of them at least prominently identified with it. Their recruits came principally from naturalized former British subjects, such as Canadians, Scotch and English, with a scattering of Swedes. So zealous and jealous were they of the welfare of this nation and so sanguine that the Pope of Rome was soon to be installed in the City Hall of Omaha, that they had forgotten the patriotism of the Sullivans, Barreys and Montgomerys of Revolutionary fame, and the Sheridans, Shermans, Mahers, Cochrans and Rosecrans who helped save the Union—all of them Roman Catholics. They were presumed to have all been Protestants, but I never knew any of them that ever worked overtime in the practice of any religion; they may all have differed in religious belief, but there was one thing they were all a unit on, and that was: hatred of an Irish Roman Catholic. The worshippers of Mahomed, Confucius and Budha were left to worship undisturbed, but the worshippers of the Meek and humble Nazarene were hounded and despised. This was but the usual wave of periodical hysteria which often swept over the country—a causeless, reasonless fury of bigotry, where in this particular instance the courts became as furious as the mob—in fact it was a wave of hysteria like the Salem witchcraft insanity of Massachusetts. Our courts, presided over by members of this infuriated mob, where the lives, liberty and property interests of Roman Catholics were at stake, were prejudiced and wholly indifferent as to the justice of their cause; juries were packed and the mark of qualification was the “sign of the order,” given while rising to be sworn, in a mock pretense to qualifying. All of this, remember, was in the name of “Patriotism and Religion;” in the language of Madam Roland, “Oh, religion and liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name.” This calamity lasted for some three years, when they began to break the rope of sand that bound them together. This, coupled with the mucilage binding of the cohesive power of public plunder. When exposed, they fled like the Horans of Israel before the walls of Jerico, but not until they had looted our treasury and robbed the widows and orphans. It is to be sincerely hoped that God in His merey will

spare this community from another such scourge as that of A. P. Aism.

The city council of that year had, for the first time in the history of the city, become democratic, through the previous fall election. Thomas Lowrey was made president, defeating me by one vote. In this connection—it may not be generally known, but nevertheless true—it was that one vote that deprived me of being mayor of Omaha for one year had I been elected president of the council. Mayor Cushing had agreed to resign the office, as he had been losing money by holding it, his other business being badly neglected. The reason he assigned to me for not resigning was that he had no confidence in Mr. Lowrey and feared to entrust the city's affairs in his hands. This I am inclined to believe, for the reason that he had always requested me to represent him on occasions where he was expected to preside, thus ignoring Mr. Lowrey, the president of the council.

On October 10th of that year, the day upon which Neal was hanged, there was confined in jail a negro named Smith, who was being held on suspicion of having ravished a little child whose name I do not now recall. The evening edition of the Bee erroneously reported that she had died by reason of the supposed assault. The hanging of Neal being fresh in the minds of the people, it required but little agitation to bring on the lynching of Smith. The news of the contemplated action spread like wildfire all over the city. The first information I had of it was about 9:30 p. m. when I was returning from the Exposition building, where I had delivered a speech in support of an ordinance then pending, where a new company sought to secure a street railway franchise. Observing crowds of excited people running toward the county jail, curiosity moved me to follow. On my arrival there I found James E. Boyd, then Governor, and Judge George W. Doane, then Judge of the District Court, addressing the mob, advising them that the law take its course. When they were through I was called for and, being placed upon the edge of a window where I could barely stand, I addressed the howling mob along the same lines as did the previous speakers. Having my cane in my hand, the pushing and jolting of the mob caused the cane to strike the window glass, making a tremendous crash, which was a very unfortunate occurrence, as it gave impetus to the mob, leaving the impression that the first step had been taken toward an entrance to the jail. In the mad rush of the infuriated mob I was thrown to the ground and barely escaped with my life. Waiting some little time in the crowd, I saw men coming from all directions with hammers and battering rams to break the doors and windows, which they very soon succeeded in doing, thereby effecting an entrance to the jail, where the breaking of locks and bars could be heard for more than a block away. About 11 o'clock I had started home.

Having arrived on the corner of Seventeenth and Harney, I there waited a few moments, where I engaged in conversation with Governor Boyd, Gilbert Hitchcock and Rev. P. F. McCarthy, who were deploring the sad condition of things. Shortly after the crowd began surging toward us, dragging the unfortunate victim down the hill and through the crowd till they reached the northeast corner of Seventeenth and Harney Streets, there placing a noose around the victim's neck and throwing the rope over a telephone wire, drew his lifeless body up and left it dangling in the air until it was removed by the Omaha Fire Department shortly afterward. The most unfortunate thing about this lynching was the fact that there was no truth to the story that the supposed ravished girl was dead or even injured, and had the evidence been adduced it would have disclosed the fact that he was not guilty of the crime, which could and would have been proven had he had his preliminary hearing. This is but the repeated story of the acts of an infuriated mob.

During the summer of that year the present City Hall was completed. The contractor, John F. Coots, issued a wail of lamentation in which he complained of having lost money in its construction, owing to the vigilance of the mayor and city council. In order to recoup, he entered into collusion with W. I. Kierstead and others with a view of furnishing the City Hall with its necessary furniture, on the pretense that the furniture would be made in Coots' mill in Omaha. Securing the aid of an evening paper, he began to appeal to the council with the slogan, "To be made in Omaha," while in truth and in fact a Michigan firm was to turn out every piece of it. Bids were submitted, Mr. Coots bidding \$40,000, the Ketchum Furniture Company of Cleveland, O., bidding \$27,000, the Andrews Furniture Company of Chicago, \$38,000. The Ketchum Furniture Company being the lowest bidder and having the best samples of furniture, their bid was accepted. Before the mayor could sign the contract he was served with an injunction, secured by Edward Rosewater, the hearing being before Hon. George W. Doane, District Judge. The hearing was the most laughable legal procedure ever tried before any court. It resulted in the court's refusal to sustain the injunction, and severely upbraided both Mr. Rosewater and his attorney, Ed. W. Simmeral. The mayor was represented by Hon. A. J. Poppleton, city attorney. That was nearly twenty-five years ago, and the same furniture is doing service in the City Hall at the present time. The taxpayers were saved \$13,000, and Kierstead and Coots declared no dividend on that transaction.

As stated in another article in these Recollections, this administration began with the enmity of Mr. Rosewater, editor of the Bee, and was continually harrassed, everlastingly humiliated and deeply stung by his vituperation, his vitriolic outpouring of

invectives, an art of which he was past grand master. Toward the latter part of that administration he began to direct his batteries against me alone. This no doubt was partly due to the fact that I was considered as the leader of the majority in that council and he wanted to make sure of my defeat in the event of my candidacy for re-election (a purpose which I never had in mind, but of which he was ignorant). To accomplish the defeat of the retiring members of this council, he entered into collusion with the A. P. A.'s, the only concession exacted of them being that he be allowed to name the candidate for mayor, all the other offices going to the good brothers of the order. This privilege was given him, and he named poor, eccentric, whimsical, old George P. Bemis, former secretary to George Francis Train. All of their candidates were elected. Before retiring, this council was called upon to approve the bonds of the incoming officials, all of whom were duly approved without discussion, except that of Henry Bolln, the new city treasurer-elect. This bond was in the sum of \$1,000,000. Knowing Mr. Bolln's weakness, as well as the crowd to whom he had given the right to select his office force, I began an investigation as to the financial standing of some of the men that were sureties on that bond and found that John Erk had signed for \$60,000, Ed Wittig for \$40,000, Max Meyer for \$50,000. Upon inquiry I learned that John Erk, who formerly owned the hotel known as North Western on Sixteenth and Webster, was being foreclosed on a mortgage on this property in which he had but a slight equity and was soon to lose that; Ed Wittig ran a saloon at 1420 Farnam Street and owned his own residence on Twenty-first and Marey Streets, all of which would be properly exempt, while Max Meyer owned a jewelry store in the Paxton Block and little or no real estate free from incumbrance, thus leaving John F. Coad, Sam E. Rogers and W. A. Paxton to pay in case of defalcation, which prediction was verified a few years afterward when Mr. Bolln defaulted. For this precaution I came in for another tirade of abuse from Mr. Rosewater, who exulted in the knowledge that I would soon be retired to private life where I could not attack the financial standing of Omaha's "business men." When the bond was sued upon, John Erk could not be found, Ed Wittig was traveling for a brewery, and Max Meyer had moved away and was traveling for a jewelry firm in Baltimore. I am proud that I was a member of that council and that administration, as no council before nor since has ever left behind it a greater monument of progress and economy; none other more justly free from the breath of scandal or reckless expenditure of the people's money; one which for the first time in the history of our city council left a surplus in every fund, no warrant drawing interest for lack of funds, and no holder forced to discount the same. Yet they were ruthlessly and unceremoniously "kicked out" to make room for men who came in on the tidal wave of bigotry,

fanaticism and sham reformation, and whose exploits and defalcations made the Goddess of Liberty on the City Hall weep and wail and exclaim, as did Mary Queen of Scots, "Many are the crimes committed in the name of patriotism and liberty."

CHAPTER XIII.

1892.

On May 1st of that year the Methodist General Conference met in Omaha, and the session was held in the old Exposition building. There were delegates from all over the world, including bishops, laymen and, in fact, all the notables of that great church. This conference lasted for thirty days. During that time it rained continuously day and night. The most singular thing about it was that no sooner had the conference ended than it quit raining and we had a prolonged dry spell. In fact, the churches asked prayers for rain, which eventually came.

On July 4 of that year the Populist National Convention was held in Omaha for the purpose of nominating a president and vice-president of the United States. The convention was in the old Coliseum and, while not a delegate to that convention, I acted as alternate in the absence of D. Clem Deaver, who had been elected a delegate from Nebraska from this congressional district. I attended each session and observed minutely all of the transactions, and in slang language, that was "some convention"—something doing all the time. One notable scene was that of the great parade of the delegates around the hall, following the address of Mary Leese of Kansas. It had the appearance of pandemonium turned loose, a parade that will pale into significance any ever witnessed in Omaha—banners waved, drums beat, flutes and fifes without number played. This uproar continued for more than an hour, and was only silenced by the thundering voices of W. V. Allen of Nebraska, James Weaver of Iowa and Marian Butler of South Carolina. Mr. Weaver was chairman of the convention. When the committee on platform and resolutions made its report a like demonstration took place. From the days of Cicero, Demosthenes and Maribeau, there never convened a greater assemblage of orators. There were "Cyclone" Davis of Texas, "Calamity" Weller of Iowa, Mary Leese of Kansas, United States Senator Peffer and "Sockless" Jerry Simpson of Kansas, Governor Wait of Colorado (commonly called "Bloody Bridlee" Wait) Ignacius Donnelly of Minnesota (he of Lord Bacon and Shakespeare fame) and our own Paul Vanderford, United States Senator Allen, Congressman William McKeegan, John Powers, Congressmen Neville, Kemp, Sutherland, Silas Holcomb and W. A. Poynter and old Tom Watson of Georgia. On the afternoon of the second day of the convention, the order of business had reached the point of nominations for

president and vice-president. The name of Walter Q. Gresham, a republican with progressive tendencies who had recently retired from the office of attorney general of the United States in President Harrison's cabinet, was presented and he received the nomination. The question of his acceptance was a doubtful one, and the convention took a recess until the next day. In the meantime a committee was appointed to ascertain whether or not Mr. Gresham would accept the nomination. It was late the following day before an answer came, which was to the effect that he could not accept, whereupon Hon. James B. Weaver of Iowa was given the nomination for president, and that of vice-president was given to James Fields of Virginia. Shortly after Mr. Gresham had declined this nomination he was appointed one of the judges of the United States Circuit Court. Suspicion always rested upon him that this appointment was given as a reward for his declining that nomination for president. This was the opinion of James B. Weaver, as he plainly told me so in a conversation had with him at the Paxton Hotel in Omaha on the 20th of May, 1899, while here to deliver an address at a banquet given by the Peter Cooper Club, of which I was secretary.

In September of this year the republicans held their congressional convention here, and David H. Mercer was resurrected from the position of master in chancery and made the nominee. This nomination evidently displeased the powers that then dominated the republican party (the A. P. A.'s), as was evident from the fact that at South Omaha a joint meeting of all of the camps was held and Mercer did not receive their endorsement—on the contrary, the Rev. R. L. Wheeler of South Omaha, the nominee of the Populist party, received it. In justice to Rev. Wheeler I must say from reliable information that he did not seek that endorsement, nor was he a member of the organization, he being a man too broad in his views to be affiliated with such men. Those who led the fight on Mr. Mercer were Dr. Glasgow, then postmaster of South Omaha, and Mayor Miller of that city. A few weeks thereafter the democrats met for a like purpose at Patterson's Hall, Sixteenth and Farnam Streets. Edgar Howard, editor of the Papillion Times, presided, and former Judge George W. Doane was nominated by acclamation. The platform of this convention advocated the gold standard, which began to be very unpopular among the democrats. As a result, he was defeated and Mr. Mercer was elected.

About August 15th of that year the populist party held its county convention for the purpose of electing delegates to the state convention. The meeting was held in Clark's Hall, 103 South Fourteenth Street. V. O. Stuckler was made chairman. The sentiment was strong for a Van Wyck delegation for governor. This was evidenced by an incident that took place in the convention hall. John O. Yeiser of Dundee precinct was a con-

testing delegate from that precinct and sought the seat of "Buffalo" Jones, a unique character with long hair. Yeiser was opposed to Van Wyck. This did not rest well on the mind of a delegate from the Sixth ward, Mike O'Connell, a molder from the Union Pacific shops. When the committee on credentials, consisting of George A. Magney, D. Clem Deaver, Elmer Thomas and myself made our report, denying Yeiser his seat, he took the floor and asked to be heard in his own behalf. This was more than O'Connell could stand and he proceeded forthwith to relieve the convention of the delay incident to hearing Mr. Yeiser by taking him by the seat of the pants and the nape of his neck and rushing him down two flights of stairs and out into the street, where he remained during the selection of delegates and the transaction of all other business. In this connection it is well to state that one could have as much fun in attending a populist convention as they could in witnessing a circus or a vaudeville. Every delegate was an orator and everyone was suspicious of the other, and for what reason I never could learn, excepting that it may be a lurking suspicion that the one or the other may be friendly to corporate interests. Oh, what a skinning the two old parties would get at their hands! This is illustrated by a speech I heard Cyclone Davis of Texas make in one of our Douglas County conventions. He stated that there was no difference in these two old parties; they were likened by him to a man skinning the bark off of a tree—when he skinned it upward he called it "high cockalorum" and when downward, "low cockahirum"—in other words, they skinned the people either way.

CHAPTER XIV.

1893.

The year 1893 brought to Omaha people more of the woes of hard times and business depression. There was practically nothing doing here. Men were being discharged or working half time in almost every field of industry; property values were fast depreciating and no buildings were being erected. The World's Fair had opened up at Chicago and many Omaha families had moved there with the view of securing employment, most of them permanently locating there. This exposition proved of little value to this city, aside from giving employment to a few politicians, which proved a life saver to them. On March 4, Grover Cleveland for the second time became president of the United States, and selected J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska as one of his cabinet officers, that of secretary of agriculture. This proved the crack of doom to the Boyd-Miller factions of the democratic party and placed the Morton-Brown faction completely in the saddle for the first time in the history of the party in this state. The scramble for office that followed would make a nigger take to the woods. Every man that ever voted the democratic

ticket in the state claimed to be a Morton follower since the state was admitted to the Union, while in truth and in fact 96 per cent of them were liars; as that is the basis that I ran up against when I conducted Mr. Morton's campaign against the other faction. However, it did not take him long to decide who were original Morton men and to whom to give the offices.

The newly elected Board of Education, consisting of Rev. J. T. Duryea, Colonel Henry Akin, B. F. Thomas, Henry Knowdell and J. F. Burgess took their seats. Clinton Powell was elected president, and Colonel Akins, vice-president.

The Omaha Bridge and Terminal Company purchased 100 acres of land in East Omaha for bridge and terminal purposes. A bridge was constructed which required some three years to complete. It is one of the finest in this western country, one of its spans being used for suspension purposes, permitting boats to pass up and down the river. It is now known as the Illinois Central bridge.

The District Court in January of that year was wrestling with a lawsuit instituted by Judge Doane, I. S. Hascall and others to recover money paid by them in the purchase of lots sold from the land of the old County Poor Farm. The suit was instituted against Douglas County, the point of contention raised by the plaintiffs I do not now recall.

Mayor Miller's body was exhumed after being buried for a week. He was at the time of his death mayor of South Omaha, and was found dead in a vacant lot on lower Ninth Street here. Having been elected to the office on what was then known as the A. P. A. ticket, suspicion on the part of members of that organization pointed to the possibility of his having been murdered by or through Roman Catholic influences, but the evidence disclosed the fact that he came to his death at his own hands, with suicidal intent.

On January 14 of this year Ex-President Hayes died. He having had many personal friends in Omaha, much sorrow was manifest, not only among them but the public in general. The flags on public buildings, including the Post Office, Army Headquarters and Fort Omaha, were at half mast, and the usual number of cannons were fired at the Fort.

In the early part of the year Frank Kleffner was killed by stepping backward into an elevator shaft. He was an old and honored citizen of Omaha, and for a number of years was chief of the fire department here. He was such at the time of the Grand Central fire, and much undeserved criticism was heaped upon him because of the disastrous results of that memorable fire. Afterwards he was block watchman and had often told me that he was never the same man after that fire.

The old jail was ordered removed from Sixteenth and Farnam Streets under an old frame building where now stands the United States National Bank and then used as the City Hall. The reason assigned by the Omaha papers for its removal was that "it smelled to heaven," which I am sure was a true, good and sufficient one.

Governor Crouse succeeded Governor Boyd, many people from Omaha attending the inaugural ball and witnessing the Governor taking the oath of office. It proved a tame affair in comparison to the inauguration of Governor Boyd two years before, when the state militia crowded the State House, under orders from the retiring Governor Thayer, who refused to yield the office to his successor, Mr. Boyd.

The Commercial Club of Omaha was organized with Herman Kounte as president and W. A. L. Gibbon as secretary. It was organized in the old Board of Trade building at Sixteenth and Farnam, and it was but in recent years that it has been known as the Commercial Club—it being called the Board of Trade.

The Y. W. C. A. and the Woman's Club were both started here this year.

The Army Headquarters, which had been located in the Bee building, were moved to the United States National Bank building.

The northeast corner of Seventeenth and Douglas Streets was leased for ninety-nine years for the sum of \$3,600 annually by the Bressler Building Company.

CHAPTER XV.

1894.

In January of this year George P. Bemis took his seat for the second time as mayor of Omaha, having defeated Jeff W. Bedford, democrat, and I. S. Hascall, populist and the candidate of the A. P. A.'s. The incidents of importance in his administration are given in another chapter of these Recollections.

John C. Drexel succeeded George A. Bennett as sheriff of Douglas County after one of the most bitter fights ever waged for that office. Mr. Bennett was the nominee of the republican party and Drexel that of the democrats.

That year Silas A. Holcombe was nominated by the populist party for governor at their convention at Grand Island. The democratic convention, which convened at the old Exposition building in Omaha, after one of the hardest fights ever witnessed, endorsed Mr. Holcombe and a complete fusion ticket.

This was the parting of the ways between the silver and gold advocates of the democratic party. W. J. Bryan made the speech placing Mr. Holcombe in nomination. I recall a part of his speech which was in substance: "I arise to perform a duty; whether the performance of that duty will cause me to sink or swim, I care not; the platform of the man whom I am going to nominate differs but slightly and not upon any of the fundamental principles of true democracy; I therefore place in nomination Silas A. Holcombe as the nominee of this convention." The republican state convention nominated Tom Majors of Peru for governor. Majors was a lifelong enemy of Ed. Rosewater, editor of the Bee. On the nomination of Majors, Mr. Rosewater tendered to the convention his resignation as republican national committeeman, which was immediately accepted by the convention. Mr. Rosewater's paper supported Silas A. Holcombe, who was elected. This was the occasion when Bryan laid the foundation for his nomination for the presidency.

In August this state was visited by one of the hottest dry winds ever recorded in its history. It came from the southwest, having its beginning in Oklahoma, arriving in Omaha about 9 o'clock p. m., August 15. So intense was the heat of that wind that people were driven into their homes or forced to seek shelter wherever it could be found. Even the furniture was so hot that it was uncomfortable to touch. This day marked an epoch in property depreciation in Nebraska. The crops were burned up and farm owners as well as homesteaders deserted their homes and left them to the tender mercy of the elements. I attended a state convention at Grand Island the following month and saw on the streets of that town some 200 covered wagons, or prairie schooners, loaded with the families and all their earthly possessions. The men were delegates to the convention on their way to some eastern states. Many stories are told of the disgust with which they were filled and their eagerness to depart. One of them that I recall was that of a homesteader in Sherman County, who hung the following sign on his door on leaving:

"Good-bye, old homestead, I bid you fair adieu;
Some day I may go to hell, but I'll never return to you."

Another was that of a farmer in Custer County who, while traveling in his wagon going east, having a small calf hitched to the back of the wagon, was met by another farmer who made his new friend a proposition that he would give him eighty acres for his calf, which proposition was accepted, the deed made, the maker chuckling to himself that he had got the best of the bargain, as the other man could not read, thereby taking advantage of his illiteracy unloading on him two eighties in place of one. The results of that ill-fated day were felt in this state for four years thereafter. Fortunately, however, that was the last scourge the state has experienced. The lands that were then abandoned

are now producing the finest of crops, and will bring all the way from \$50 to \$150 per acre, and few are willing to sell at that price.

CHAPTER XVI.

1895.

The year 1895 found the people of Omaha in anguish and despair. Times were growing harder and men and women were out of employment, with no ray of hope in sight. Raids by the depositors were made on many of our strongest financial institutions, some of whom were fortunate enough to meet the demands made on them, thereby restoring confidence to the depositors, who in most cases re-deposited. Others were not so able to weather the storm and were forced to close their doors, notably the Nebraska Savings Bank, then located in the Board of Trade building; the McCague Savings Bank, in the McCague building; the Omaha Savings Bank, at Thirteenth and Douglas Streets; the Five Cents Savings Bank at 1502 Farnam Street, and the Dime Savings Bank at Sixteenth and Dodge Streets. Those failures worked additional hardship and suffering on the public and the depositors, many of whom were forced to wait for years the report of the receivers, then receiving but a few cents on the dollar. That year gold was discovered at Cripple Creek, Colorado, and many Omaha men left for the New Eldorado, I being one of them, remaining there at intervals for the greater part of that year. On one of my return trips I brought with me five \$100 bills, which I had realized through a mining investment. Going into an Omaha department store and making a purchase, I offered one to be changed. To my surprise and humiliation I had every important attache of the place eyeing me with the suspicion due only a bank robber—this was but an instance of the scarcity of money at that time.

That year W. J. Bryan was hired by G. M. Hitchcock as editor of his paper, the World-Herald. This was shortly after his defeat for United States Senator by John M. Thurston of Omaha, which position he was holding at the time he received the nomination for the presidency.

Ida Gaskell was murdered in Omaha by a man giving the name of George Morgan. She was strangled and raped by him and her body horribly mutilated. He was tried and found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hanged. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court by his attorney, R. W. Patrick, but the Supreme Court sustained the verdict of the jury, and he was hanged in the yard of the old County Jail in May, 1897. Howard Baldridge was then county attorney. Captain Haze made the arrest and furnished the evidence.

That year Ed. Rosewater completely severed his connection with the A. P. A.'s, whom he had successfully used as voting cattle to drive the Irish out of office. Whether they severed their connection with him, or he with them, I cannot say, but they no longer worked in unison and harmony. Judging from a few pet expressions used by him, emitted from this trenchant editor and his vitriolic pen, such as "Venal Vampires, Cuttle-fish, Howling Dervishes," etc., I came to the conclusion that there had been an absolute decree of divorce granted. While in this mood he called what he termed a "Citizen's Convention," picking from the nominees of the two old parties such men as met with his approval. For sheriff he indorsed John Drexel, who was defeated by John McDonald; for county judge he nominated Irving Baxter, who defeated J. W. Eller; W. A. Coe, who was defeated by Albion Frank for clerk of the District Court, and Thomas Hector, who defeated Henry Kelsey of Millard for county commissioner. While in like mood, he indorsed Charles H. Brown for mayor of Omaha, who was defeated by W. J. Broach. However, be it said to his credit and to his cherished memory, that he finally rid this community of a band of moral lepers, who must have had their conception in the womb of hell, and spat out of the nauseating and ulcerating mouth of the devil himself.

CHAPTER XVII.

1896.

The year 1896 was ushered in with but little occasion for flourish of trumpets or merry ringing of chimes. The people of Omaha, and the whole nation, for that matter, were in no humor for hilarity, for the fifth year of the greatest era of hard times, panic and general depression that this country had ever experienced was being endured, and with no apparent sign of relief. Every treasured hope proved but a phantom; the prophecy of the wise ones was but tinkling cymbals and sounding brass. With uplifted eyes and outstretched arms, they directed their appeals to a benign Providence, and with the slightest ray of hope their hearts were filled with joy, and in chorus would exclaim:

"Dost thou bear on thy pinion
One vesta of hope, from the starry dominion?"

Soup houses and charity stores were the ones doing a thriving business. Men robust and rugged, willing to work if it could be had; men who were never known to depend upon the helping hands of a generous public for aid or assistance, were carrying to their homes food that was dished out through public or private charity.

That year W. J. Bryan had received the nomination for the presidency, and great joy was manifest throughout the land, which was but another phantom, but to many it was hailed as

the panacea for all their ailments. All vacant stores in the downtown districts were used (not hired) as school houses to preach the doctrine of 16 to 1, or in other words, the ratio of silver to gold, that should be decreed in a gold dollar. Bryan had secured the nomination upon a platform that, among many other vagaries, contained the free silver plank. This plank had a very captivating sound—and the average person suffering from depression, like a drowning man, was willing to grab at a straw.

Hundreds of men, from early morning till midnight, listened to the harangues of men who were assigned in three shifts to feed the multitude on sophistry and bosh, using as their undisputed authority "Cain Harvey's Pamphlet on Free Silver." Men who differed from this school of finance were abused, and in many instances attacked. So enthused had the people become that little else was thought of save the financial question. Our sidewalks and streets were black with eager listeners to some recent convert to the noble cause—men who could show you how they could pay our public debt of \$300,000,000 in one year; yet many of them were never known to figure out the system of paying a month's board in advance. They reminded me of the name Attorney Jerome of New York once applied to Bourke Coehran, "the Demosthenes of the Mulligan Guards."

During the entire year I do not recall a single instance where money was invested in the construction of new buildings; there was no apparent need of additional ones, as most of our stores were idle, also some 5,000 houses.

One of the largest political parades in our history took place in Omaha on the night of October 10 of that year. It was a democratic parade, and all the nominees of the state and county fusion ticket headed it. It was a sight long to be remembered. Following this a few nights after came the republican parade and, while not so large, yet by far more noisy, as fireworks were used profusely. It was under the leadership of John Lewis, then chairman of the republican county central committee.

It was that year that Ed. Rosewater challenged W. J. Bryan to a joint debate on the financial issues of the day. The debate was held in the old Creighton Hall on Fifteenth and Harney Streets. The house was crowded to overflowing, each party to the debate having their friends and their interest in the subject matter. Being one of the audience and free from prejudice, I would say that Mr. Rosewater had the better of the debate and the greater applause.

CHAPTER XVIII.

1897.

The year 1897 brought with it hope and cheer; the clouds were presenting a silver lining; the sun of prosperity had begun to shed its radiant light through the dense fog and mist that for five years had enveloped the financial world. Evidence of coming prosperity began shortly after the presidential election, and confidence was fast taking the place of doubt and despair. This disposition on the part of the people was fast assuming a proportion that grew as it spread, and by March 4, the day of the inauguration of President McKinley, business began to pick up. The financial question had been settled once and for all time, and money was brought from its hiding place and opportunities for investing it were sought.

Soup houses and charitable organizations were fast disappearing—"Thank God," never to return. In their place and stead were real estate offices and commercial organizations. The first permanent apparent indication of a return of prosperity was the awakening of the building boom and the rise in real estate values; the return of the people to Omaha, and the rapid and sane buying and renting of homes. Houses that for two and three years had been occupied by tenants free were repaired, sold or rented at good prices, and in many instances to the former tenants. During that year more houses were built and more real estate sold than all the years from 1887 up to that time. The city was slowly and sanely beginning to boom; enterprises that had been closed for years reopened and men soon found steady employment, and one began to feel like living again.

That year it was decided to hold at Omaha one of the greatest expositions ever held in this country. This gave added impetus to the growing boom. It was the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, which in 1898 was located here. As early as June preparations were being made for this coming event, which was to open one year thereafter. The location selected was the old race track, the property of Herman Kountze, comprising some sixty acres, bounded on the east by Sherman Avenue, on the north by Pratt Street, on the west by Twenty-fourth Street and the south by Pinkney Street. During the construction of the buildings and laying out of the grounds, hundreds of men were employed, and many families moved to Omaha, where they bought homes and became permanently located.

After so many years of financial depression, it was joy to the heart and souls of us all to hear the pleasing sound of hundreds of hammers and saws and the presentment of so many beautiful buildings in course of construction. The new white city seemed but magic, rising Phoenix-like from clay—nay, like reading a chapter from the Arabian Nights.

CHAPTER XIX.

1898.

In 1898 the joy bells began to ring, not in gay Malehide, but in Omaha; nature seemed to have removed that staring, dejected and melancholy look from the faces of the people, and in its stead left a look of joy, hope, confidence and contentment. A smile like unto that which spread upon the faces of the children of Israel when led out of the land of Egypt and the house of bondage. That year began the onward stride of Omaha's progress, and from that day until this writing she has advanced by leaps and bounds and with such momentum that at this time she is safely beyond the reach of all fears, save that of possible fanatical legislation.

The gates of this great exposition were opened on June 1, as per schedule, and on that day there were 28,000 paid admissions. From day to day the attendance varied, the lowest record being that of September 12—South Dakota and Sons of Veterans' Day—the attendance being but 7,994. The greatest attendance was President's Day, October 12, when there were 98,845. The closing day, or Omaha Day, there were 61,236 paid admissions. In all there was a total attendance, ending October 31, of 2,613,508 persons.

During that exposition many of the most prominent men of the nation visited here—some for the first time, others who had not seen Omaha for a third of a century—but all, both in public speech and private conversation, marveled at its growth and predicted a great future for both the city and state; which predictions, after but the short period of two decades, are being fully verified.

Some of the noted men who visited this exposition and who delivered addresses were President McKinley, W. J. Bryan, Chauncey M. Depew, John Jacob Astor, United States Senator W. V. Allen, Governor Silas A. Holcombe, J. Sterling Morton and many others, including the governors or representatives of the following states: Illinois, Iowa, Montana, Georgia, Utah, Ohio, New York, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Wyoming, Missouri, Colorado, Texas and the territory of Arizona.

Unfortunately, strained relations existed between this country and Spain during the early part of 1898, followed by the declaration of war, which naturally interfered with the plans and progress of the promoters of the exposition, but, notwithstanding this drawback, so well did the exposition succeed that it has the undisputed title to the claim of being the first and only one of the kind before or since in America to pay back to the stockholders 90 per cent of the face value of their stock.

Much credit is due to many men for the success of this great exposition and, without wishing to deprive any of the many who contributed their share to its success, yet the greater responsibility rested with the departmental managers, its officers and executive committee, consisting of Gurdon W. Wattles, president; Alvin Saunders, vice-president; John A. Wakefield, secretary; Herman Kountze, treasurer, and Carroll S. Montgomery, general counsel. The executive committee consisted of Z. T. Lindsay, Ed. Rosewater, Freeman P. Kirkendall, G. M. Hitchcock, Edw. E. Bruce, Charles F. Manderson, A. L. Reed, William Babcock, T. S. Clarkson and Walker & Kimball, architects in chief. Not wishing in the slightest manner to detract from the many whose time, energy and money were spent in making that the greatest and most successful exposition the world has ever seen, yet there is one man to whom too much praise cannot be given and that man is Gurdon W. Wattles, who was president of the exposition. I did not know him prior to 1897, and there were thousands of others who, like myself, did not know or even dream that a man of such exceptional ability lived in this state. At that time I heard men from all parts of this nation praise Mr. Wattles for the executive ability he possessed, and for his clear, logical and forcible public addresses.

There was scarcely a day during that exposition that he was not called upon to welcome gatherings of various kinds, as well as men of world-wide fame, none of which occasions proved too great for his masterly possession of the English language. When his addresses were listened to or read from the public press men marveled at the fluency with which they were delivered and the spontaneous outburst of eloquence and logic with which they were characterized. To him is due much of the credit of placing this city on the map, since which time Omahans have worked in hilarious unanimity and things have gone with them as smoothly sweet and as sweetly smooth as the mother's rocking of the cradle of her babe. May his shadow never grow less.

CHAPTER XX.

1899.

In 1899 an effort was made by many enthusiastic boosters of Omaha to continue the exposition for another year. These efforts were in a measure carried out, but time proved the fallacy of the undertaking, and after a few months spent in a futile effort to consummate the undertaking it was shown to be a huge joke and failure; it soon fizzled out, resulting in a financial loss to all concerned.

That year P. E. Iler claimed to have discovered natural gas belching from one of his lots on Third and Pine Streets. After

boring some hundreds of feet the project was abandoned. The boom, though a short one, created no little excitement during its life.

That year the Douglas County republican convention convened at Washington Hall, when and where the usual dog and cat fight was the sole attraction. I. G. Baright was in full control of the convention and secured the nomination for clerk of the District Court, and could have named all of the candidates and to the satisfaction of the party, but he chose to do otherwise. Had he given the nomination for sheriff to Miles Mitchel of South Omaha instead of John McDonald, that of county judge to Charles S. Elgutter instead of D. M. Vinsonhaler, he would have secured the South Omaha vote and the support of Ed. Rosewater of the Bee in support of his candidacy. As a result he was defeated at the election. The democrats acted more the part of wisdom. They gave the nomination for this office to Frank A. Broadwell of South Omaha, who was elected.

That year the Southwest Improvement Club was organized, it being one of the first improvement clubs organized in this city. I was one of its charter members. The object of the club was two-fold in its nature—the one to secure improvements for the southwestern part of the city, the other to secure a viaduct across Twenty-fourth Street and the railroad tracks. The viaduct developed to be the principal business of the club for the first two years of its existence; to get this prize was not an easy task, as the railroads were in no mood to expend the money necessary in the construction of such an expensive structure as the one demanded. Upon the repeated refusals of the company to give any encouragement to the members of the club, much indignation was manifested, both against the company and the city council. This protest reached such a proportion as to challenge their attention, which resulted in the passage of an ordinance by the council providing for the construction of the viaduct. The construction necessitated no award of damages and in 1901 it was completed, bringing that part of the city to the notice of many who have since bought and built fine homes there. The building of this viaduct brought with it many other valuable improvements. Shortly after its construction the Street Railway Company ran one of its lines over Twenty-fourth Street and across this viaduct, business houses were soon erected and the street is fast becoming a business thoroughfare, giving the traveling public a straight carline from Florence to Bellevue.

For this stroke of enterprise too much credit cannot be given to the little band that constituted the Southwest Improvement Club. As I recall them they were Martin Feenan, W. H. Green, Dan Shull, Louis Peterson, J. Pritchard, Fred Shammell, Henry Rohlf, A. Zatsman, the Lehmann brothers and myself.

CHAPTER XXI.

1900.

The year 1900 found the people of Omaha in possession of health, happiness and prosperity, the results of republican national supremacy, and the eclat of the late International Exposition. Few, if any, were idle, and the busy hum of industry was heard and could be seen on every hand. Immigration was fast pouring into our state, wholesale houses were being established here, parks and boulevards were improved or constructed—all giving evidence of our city's future greatness, permanency and stability. In short, not a cloud appeared upon the horizon without its silver lining.

That was presidential year, and the political wheels began to revolve, and from the start it was evident that W. J. Bryan and Major McKinley would, for the second time, be the candidates of their respective parties, which prediction proved true in June of that year. Major McKinley secured the nomination of the republican party at Philadelphia, and Mr. Bryan that of the democratic party at Kansas City, also that of the populist and silver republicans. The democratic party, having Jonah-like swallowed the populist party, many of the old-line populists refused to be swallowed, more especially in this state. As a result they entered a mild protest, holding a delegate state and national convention, the former at Lincoln and the latter at Cincinnati, in May of that year. I was a delegate to both of those conventions, and recall with pleasure both memorable occasions.

The convention at Lincoln was for the purpose of formulating the new party and the selection of delegates to the national convention, at which place and time I was made secretary of the convention and secretary of the state central committee and a delegate to the national convention. At the national convention, Whorton Barker of Philadelphia and Ignacius Donnelly of Minnesota were nominated for president and vice-president, respectively. Upon our return a weekly paper was launched, "The True Populist." It was edited by DeClem Deaver, Ed. Leavenworth and myself. This paper had a wide circulation throughout the state and nation, as Mr. Deaver had up to 1900 been the chairman of the national committee of the populist party, resigning that year because of the tendency of the party toward Bryan and his followers.

Mr. Deaver at the time of his resignation had been steward at the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Omaha. His resignation from the national committee incurred the displeasure of the then Governor Poynter. As a consequence he was removed and a democrat—William Seavers—was appointed in his place. This added fuel to the flames, and a bitter feeling arose against the governor.

At that time the populist party of this county had for the past two years maintained elaborate headquarters at 1515 Howard Street. This club was known as the "Peter Cooper Club," which organization I was the instrument of forming and its secretary during its lifetime. A division in the party having arisen, we were fast coming to the parting of the roads. This culminated on June 1 of that year, when the populist-fusionists, "pie-biters," under the democratic party, sought to gain possession of the rooms. This, however, was not without a struggle, as Victor Wilson of Stromsburg, then state bank examiner and a resident of Omaha and member of the club, aided and abetted by members John Barnett, George A. Magney, J. B. Jones, John O. Yeiser, Elmer E. Thomas and a few others of their following demanded and took forcible possession. Being dispossessed, we began to devise ways and means of regaining possession. To that end Mr. Deaver, L. V. Guye and Ed. Leavenworth proceeded to my office and there I drew up articles of incorporation and incorporated the organization, filing them the next morning with the County Clerk. We then by a ruse gained possession and changed the locks, thereby remaining in peace during the life of the club. This was the state headquarters of what was known as the "middle of the road" populists party during the campaign of that year. After having defeated Mr. Bryan in this state as well as the entire democratic state ticket and killing the populist party as well, we adjourned sine die, sold the furniture and affiliated with the old parties, some with the democratic, some with the socialists, I joining fortunes with the republicans, with whom I have ever since remained.

Of the populist party I will say, that during the eight years that I was connected with it, they were years of pleasant memories; in that party I met some of the brightest and brainiest men that I have ever known or ever expect to know. I met men in that party who knew more of the science of government than the professors in all our colleges in this nation; from them I learned more than I ever expected to know in a lifetime; they were not party men by inheritance but by careful research of mature investigation, men who had analyzed and solved every problem that the human mind stimulated by the best inspirations that man was capable of bringing to the task. All the reform legislation enacted into laws since then has been borrowed by both the old parties from the doctrines enunciated by the old bewhiskered populist party.

And of the democrats I will say, that when they succeeded in swallowing the populist party, they had more brains in their stomachs than in their heads.

CHAPTER XXII.

1901.

In 1901 I moved from Twenty-fifth and Poppleton Avenue to Twenty-second and Grant Streets. This was the first time during my long residence in Omaha that I had ever lived north of Burt Street; it seemed like moving to a new city, having lived in the Hanscom Park district for so many years. The topography of that part of the city was so vastly different that I felt like offering my new home for sale at a sacrifice, but I soon changed my mind and became acclimated, and waited until I traded it for a home in Kountze Place, where I resided until August of the year 1915, when I moved to my present home, 1106 South Thirty-first Street.

In that year (1901) the Twenty-fourth Street viaduct was completed and on Thanksgiving day was dedicated and opened to the public, the ceremonies taking place on the center of the structure. There were four speeches made on that occasion; those who spoke were Andrew Rosewater, Mayor Frank E. Moores, Henry T. Clark and myself; of those I regret to state that all are dead but me, and of them I will say "may their souls rest in peace," for they were all good and honored citizens, ever ready for renewed efforts in the preserving promotion of human happiness and the upbuild of Omaha.

That year many Omaha people went to the inaugural ball of President McKinley on March 4th. So great was the crowd that a special car was chartered; among them I noticed Edward Rosewater, Bradner D. Slaughter, William Summers, John C. Wharton and John L. Kennedy.

Unfortunately the joy of that occasion was soon to be turned into gloom, as it was that year that the noble McKinley was assassinated at the Buffalo Exposition, by an anarchist whose name I cannot and do not wish to remember. The news of the sorrowful tragedy reached Omaha about 4 o'clock P. M., September 6th. The first to tell me of it was John B. Furay, a personal friend of the president; the report soon spread like wildfire, crowds assembled on all corners, with sorrowful faces discussing the tragedy and silently praying for his recovery. Extra papers were issued every hour and sold as fast as the press could print them. This fever of excitement continued from day to day until the president drew his last breath, September 14th, when many a strong man wept like a little child both in private and in public, showing conclusively how dear and near he was to the hearts of the American people. On the day of the funeral, memorial services were held in Boyd's Opera House, at which fitting and appropriate addresses were delivered by John M. Thurston, Edward Rosewater, John L. Webster, John

C. Cowin and W. J. Connell, recalling to the minds of the people the day that President Garfield was buried, as the same men spoke on that occasion just twenty years before. The day was declared a holiday and business houses and all public buildings were closed, as were also railroad shops and headquarters.

There were but few incidents other than those here related, during the year 1901, save the installation of a few public officials.

CHAPTER XXIII.

1902.

In January of 1902, George W. Shields succeeded himself as County Attorney, and appointed as his deputies I. J. Dunn, Harry Burnam and John H. Grossman. In the campaign just closed he defeated John W. Parrish, republican; in that campaign Shields was opposed by the most powerful combination that ever fought a candidate for office in this county. It consisted of Edward Rosewater, Mayor Moores, A. B. Hunt, of the waterworks, and Tom Dennison, who had just been installed as Third Ward boss. The gamblers of Omaha and South Omaha sought to defeat Judge Shields in the convention. To that end they raised a purse and selected J. B. Kilkenny as the one to defeat him; added to this they had the convention located in South Omaha, for the first time in the history of the county, but to no avail, as he was nominated and elected.

In April of that year Omaha was visited by an unusually high wind which played havoc with billboards, signs and unfinished frame buildings, making its appearance about eight o'clock in the evening. It did considerable damage and many casualties were reported, among them being that sustained by ex-Mayor Bemis, who, while on his way home, had his leg broken by a fallen billboard, on Nineteenth and Farnam Streets, resulting in his being a cripple for a number of years afterward, or until the \$20,000 lawsuit which he instituted against the city as damages, was liquidated and settled, since which time his crutches were, by order of his attorney, W. J. Connell, placed in cold storage.

The Sacred Heart Church at Twenty-second and Binney Streets was dedicated with much ceremony, Bishop Richard Seannell officiating.

A terrific boiler explosion occurred at the Swift Packing House, resulting in the fatal injury to three men, and much damage to the plant.

The well-known and long-established firm of W. R. Bennett went into the hands of a receiver, with liabilities far in excess of its assets. Much of this financial ill-luck was no doubt brought

about through a change of location, having moved to Sixteenth and Harney before business had reached that far south on Sixteenth Street.

In December of that year Campbell Fair, dean of Trinity Cathedral, died.

A fire in the stock yards at South Omaha caused a loss of \$50,000. The street car lines on South Thirteenth and South Twenty-fourth streets were extended to South Omaha.

Gilbert M. Hitchcock was, in November of that year, elected to Congress for the first time, having defeated his opponent, Dave Mercer, by 1,500 majority.

CHAPTER XXIV.

1903.

On January 23, of this year, J. L. Brandeis, founder of the J. L. Brandeis Stores, died.

The Omaha Coal Exchange formed a well planned trust, the purpose of which was to raise the price of coal. A man by the name of Howell (not Ed Howell) was elected president. This newly-born of the many then existing trusts, was swimming with the tide when it suddenly received a solar plexus blow at the hands of Judge A. L. Sutton, then judge of the District Court of Douglas County, criminal proceedings having been instituted against Mr. Howell, its president,—in violation of the anti-trust law of this state, resulting in Judge Sutton finding the defendant guilty and imposing a severe fine in addition to fining his attorney, W. J. Connell, for contempt of court, in his overzealous effort in behalf of his client.

Detective Henry Heitfeldt shot Harry Woods while the officers were raiding a tough Third Ward joint, where a number of desperate criminals were congregated with a view and for the purpose of laying plans to kill a number of Omaha's police. Woods did not die from the wounds, and that Heitfeldt was not killed was due to his quick shot at the criminal.

An explosion of a gas tank at Twentieth and Center Streets could be heard for miles; no serious loss was sustained, nor injuries reported but the debris was scattered for blocks around, demolishing windows and roofs of small houses.

President Stickney of the Chicago & Great Western Railroad delivered an address before the Commercial Club in which he advocated making Omaha a grain market, and outlined a plan of action which provided the nucleus around which grew and from which sprang our present grain market, now the second largest in the world. To carry into effect his plans a tract of

land was purchased in the southwest part of the city, known as Sheeley Station, upon which is now built many grain elevators of enormous capacity. So successful was this undertaking that it resulted in the formation of a Grain Exchange, which at this writing has completed a six-story fireproof building at Nineteenth and Harney streets and known as the Grain Exchange Building. In the fall of that year news reached Omaha of the disastrous Iroquois fire at Chicago; many Omahans were in much distress concerning friends and relatives whom they feared might have been victims of the disaster, but when reports were all in it developed that but two Omaha people had lost their lives and one seriously injured in that memorable fire.

CHAPTER XXV.

1904.

In January of that year Attorney W. C. Ives died of appendicitis. He was an old resident of this city and brother-in-law of Attorney W. J. Connell.

Count Creighton donated to the Creighton University the Creighton and Arlington Blocks, properties valued at \$250,000.

Congressman Hitchcock secured a victory for Omaha in maintaining the Indian warehouse at this place, in addition to getting an appropriation of \$10,000 for its maintenance.

Superintendent Pearse of the Omaha schools was elected superintendent of the schools of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, severing his connection with this city, having served as superintendent of schools at this place for ten years.

R. Beecher Howell filed charges against and secured the conviction of Thomas Klopp, in connection with frauds in the recent city primary election, for members of the water board.

Joseph Falk, governor of Missouri, and candidate for vice-president of the United States, spoke at the Auditorium. In his address he lauded County Attorney James English for his work in cleaning up the morals of this city.

The home of Elmer E. Thomas, at 4636 Douglas Street, was dynamited—at least it was so claimed. The bomb was said to have been placed under the porch of his residence, and fired at 1:30 a. m., while he and his family were at home and asleep. Mr. Thomas had taken a prominent part in the suppression of vice in Omaha, as well as a leading part in the prosecution of one of Omaha's leading politicians. In view of his activity suspicion at once rested on the party or parties whose displeasure he had incurred. Upon investigation, however, the whole matter turned into a farce, and my friend Elmer

failed to make a case, and the matter was dismissed by the court of public opinion, there being no sufficient grounds for a cause of action.

Frank Murphy, president of the Street Railway Company, died in New York of heart failure; he was an old resident of Omaha and a millionaire, a brother of Mrs. Cummins, wife of the first territorial governor of Nebraska.

CHAPTER XXVI.

1905.

J. H. Evans, one of Omaha's pioneer business men, died at Dallas, Texas, where he went to recuperate.

J. H. N. Patrick died at his home in Happy Hollow, at the age of 77 years; he was one of the early pioneers of this city, and at one time owned all the land upon which the city of Dundee is now built.

February 3 was the coldest day experienced by Nebraskans for years, it being 25 degrees below zero, following a thaw, which left the ground covered with sleet and ice, thereby impeding traffic of all kind. The extreme cold of that day is fully impressed on my mind for the reason that I nursed a pair of frozen ears for a week afterward.

That fall the republicans elected their entire county ticket by majorities of from 500 to 5,000.

Gurdon W. Wattles was crowned King Ak-Sar-Ben the XI.

The second annual horse show was held in Omaha in the fall of that year, this making the last one of that kind here, as the automobile show has taken its place.

The implement men held a state convention here which was largely attended by their dealers from all over the United States.

Miss Eva Booth, commander-in-chief of the Salvation Army, arrived in Omaha and was enthusiastically received and given a royal welcome.

Sylvester R. Rush, reputed attorney general of the United States, was instructed from Washington to vigorously prosecute the Nebraska land grabbers and cattlemen, which he proceeded to do, resulting in the fining and imprisonment (for the first time in the history of such prosecutions) many of the men connected with those frauds, and permitting the poor homesteaders ever after to live in peace and contentment.

Pat Crowe was arrested in Butte, Montana, and brought back to Omaha on requisition papers issued by the governor of this state, and in the fall was tried on the charge of shooting an officer, but was acquitted.

CHAPTER XXVII.

1906.

The crime for which Pat Crowe was tried in the spring of 1906 is familiar to everyone in both hemispheres, both in song and story. He was an Omaha boy, at least had lived here the greater part of his life. On December 19th, 1900, a son, Eddie, of the millionaire packer, Edward Cudahy, was reported missing, and having been absent for more than a week it was feared that he had been either kidnapped or foully dealt with. At the end of a week Mr. Cudahy received a letter in which he was given to understand that on the deposit of \$25,000 in gold at a spot west of the city limits of Omaha, about Fifty-eighth and Center Streets, the boy would be returned, otherwise his eyesight would be destroyed. It is claimed that the money was so deposited as requested; the boy having returned was taken as evidence of the presumption that the money had been received. Pat Crowe, having figured in many brazen escapades, suspicion at once turned to him as the guilty person. This, coupled with the fact that he could not be found in his customary haunts, confirmed the suspicion; whether guilty or not Crowe was not to be found, notwithstanding a reward of \$50,000, which was offered for his apprehension alone. During the first part of this year he was tried in the District Court of Douglas County, jointly with one James Callahan, for kidnaping. He was tried before Judge A. L. Sutton, trial judge, and defended by Albert Richie and James P. English, now one of the judges of the district court of Douglas County, and prosecuted by W. W. Slabough, the then county attorney, assisted by F. W. Fitch, one of his deputies. The trial was a long drawn out one, having lasted for more than a week, the outcome of which was eagerly awaited by the whole country. The instructions given by the trial judge were fair, both to the state and the defense; the jury having deliberated two days it returned a verdict of "not guilty;" whereupon the court discharged the accused.

The Omaha business men gave a banquet at the Commercial Club in honor of A. L. Mohler, who moved to Omaha, having been appointed vice-president and general manager of the Union Pacific railroad.

In the fall of this year Nels Lausten, a saloonkeeper at Twenty-second and Cuming Streets, was shot and instantly killed in his place of business about 9 o'clock P. M. The murderers were Jay O'Hearn, Raymond Nelson, Leo Angus and James Warren, all of whom were soon apprehended by the police. Two of the criminals—Warren and Angus—confessed and turned state's evidence, and were each given life sentences; Nelson and O'Hearn were tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged; on appeal the Supreme Court reduced the sentences to life im-

prisonment, since which time all of them have been paroled, and at this writing are at large.

Frank Clark, manager of the Brandeis Bank, was held up and shot on his way home, by footpads. The shooting did not prove fatal and he soon recovered.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

1907.

In 1907 a taste of the Blue Laws of Connecticut was given the people of Omaha, which occasion will be long remembered as "Blue Sunday." The fanatics had so aggravated Mayor Moores about his failure to enforce the Sunday laws that he issued an order to the chief of police to strictly enforce the law regardless of the many inconveniences which would result. This order the then Chief Donahue carried out and enforced both in the letter and spirit of the law. Not a place of business of any nature or character was permitted to open their doors; not a drug store, nor a place of amusement, not a street car turned a wheel; nor a vehicle travelled the streets. That this strict enforcement of the law was not in keeping with the sentiment of the people of a growing western city, and in this day and age, was very evident, as more than 100 arrests were made through the effort to enforce it. One Sunday of such strictness was a genteel sufficiency, as the public rose en masse and clamored for a sane and liberal construction of the laws, and the mayor, in obedience to the almost unanimous demand of the people, so acted. This is proof sufficient, if any be needed, to convince fanatics that that brand of Connecticut seed will not grow on Nebraska's rich and fertile soil.

Frank J. Carpenter, of the Carpenter Paper Company, died, after an illness of several weeks, having suffered a nervous breakdown.

Count John A. Creighton, one of the founders of Creighton University, died February 7th at the age of 75 years.

Arthur Jacquith was found dead in Kountze Park.

C. C. Hungate, a young Omaha man, son of Jake Hungate, was killed in the shafting of the Omaha Ice & Cold Storage Building.

The plumbers struck for higher wages, crippling the building industry for more than four months.

The city council celebrated in a befitting manner its Fiftieth anniversary, the first city clerk and the son of the first mayor of Omaha participating.

The cornerstone of St. Cecilia's Catholic Cathedral was laid, all of the parishes in the bishopric diocese taking part. Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, Minnesota, delivered the principal address of the occasion. Architect Kimball, who designed the plans, delivered a short speech.

The Cady Lumber Company, Sixth and Douglas Streets, sustained a \$10,000 loss by fire.

The Omaha postoffice reported having handled 48,000,000 pieces of mail during the year.

H. J. Penfold sustained a loss of \$30,000 through the burning of his drug store at 1408 Farnam Street.

Harrison Clark held up and shot to death Edward Fleury, an Omaha street car conductor, at the Albright terminus of the South Omaha carline. Clark was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged. The supreme court commuted the sentence to life imprisonment, and the Pardon Board has up to this writing refused to grant a parole.

H. C. Cady dropped dead at Thirteenth and Locust Streets, of heart failure, caused in part by the excessive heat.

Judge George B. Lake succumbed to the heat and died.

Richard S. Hall, one of Omaha's most prominent attorneys, died of Bright's disease.

CHAPTER XXIX.

1908.

The Jacksonian Club gave its seventeenth annual banquet, at which W. J. Bryan was the principal speaker.

The financial panic, which struck the country in the latter part of 1907 and lasted but a short time, was by the Omaha clearance house declared off; this association included all the banks of Omaha and South Omaha. Following this, confidence was immediately restored, and business assumed its natural course of activity.

Judge Isaac Hascall, one of Omaha's most prominent public men and old pioneers, died.

The Y. M. C. A. celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a banquet, etc.

Meyer & Raapke's grocery store sustained a \$15,000 loss by fire.

Benjamin F. Thomas was appointed postmaster of Omaha, and a banquet was tendered him by the Equal Rights Political Club, of which he was a prominent member.

Sam Drummy, one of Omaha's ablest and shrewdest detectives, was shot and instantly killed by a negro, William Jones,

while under arrest at South Omaha. There was a running fire of shots, in which Detective Michael Sullivan was also injured, but not fatally; Jones was shot and instantly killed by Detective Shields of the South Omaha police force, during the melee.

Mrs. E. L. Dodder, wife of Dodder, the undertaker, was burned to death, and a sister fatally injured as a result of a gasoline explosion, while cleaning curtains in the basement of the family home.

A grand jury decreed that the old infamous Arcade should go, and its cribs should close; the Arcade here mentioned was located on Ninth and Capitol Avenue, on the south side of the street, and consisted of a regular village of cribs or one-story bricks, used as houses of prostitution; they were built and owned by M. F. Martin, an Omahan who had massed a fortune in the renting and collecting of rents from women of the underworld—prior to the passage of the Albert law.

The Republican State Convention met at Boyd's Opera House, for the purpose of electing delegates to the national convention and selecting a national committeeman. The delegation was instructed for Taft for president.

Morris Christensen was drowned in a cistern, in an effort to rescue his child who had fallen in; he held the baby above water until lifted out by friends, then sank to the bottom exhausted and was taken out dead.

The Democratic and Populist State Conventions were each held in Omaha, the former in the Auditorium, and the latter in Washington Hall, where they selected delegates to their respective national conventions, and instructed for Bryan for president.

CHAPTER XXX.

1909.

President Taft arrived in Omaha, and was the guest of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben at their Den for the evening. The street car strike was on and he was asked to use his best efforts to effect a settlement. The President, deeming it a local matter, did not interfere. During his stay here he was entertained and banqueted at the Omaha Club, was driven around the city in an automobile, followed by a long train of prominent citizens in autos, after which he expressed much delight at the progress of the city, and extended his thanks for the generous welcome given him.

As before stated, the street car men went on a strike, the cause assigned I cannot recall, suffice it to say that for two weeks the people were without street car service and had to walk. The company imported strike-breakers to take the place

of the strikers, and managed to run cars at intervals. The desire to ride was too hazardous, as many of the operated cars were demolished by the angry populace. President Wattles of the company made a proposition to the strikers that in the event of their returning to work each man would be given his old job, and would maintain the established rule of seniority in line of advance salary, but would not treat with or recognize any overtures coming from their union. This the strikers refused to accept. As a final result the men were forced to return to work, as many of them as were acceptable to the company; many of whom lost their jobs and were forced to seek others.

The Omaha National Bank bought the New York Life Building and grounds at Seventeenth and Farnam Streets for \$700,000. This is the ground formerly occupied by Joseph H. Millard, the president of this bank, as a residence, having sold it to the New York Life in 1887 for \$100,000.

One of the most brilliant military parades ever witnessed in Omaha took place here during the carnival; it proved one of the greatest features of the Ak-Sar-Ben daylight parade. The soldiers of Fort Omaha and other forts were returning from encampment at some place in Iowa, and marched across the Council Bluffs bridge; there were 5,000 troops—cavalry, artillery and infantry. They gave drills and different exhibitions at Fort Omaha during the week.

Euclid Martin, former postmaster and former president of the Commercial Club, was given a banquet by the members of that club; it was a farewell dinner given him before his departure from Omaha to his new home in the west, after a residence of 27 years here, where he was honored, loved and respected by all who knew him during all those busy years.

Frank L. Henry shot and instantly killed his wife at Fifteenth and Leavenworth Streets on July 3rd. He was charged with first degree murder and I was appointed by Judge A. L. Sutton to defend him. As I recall the facts, Henry worked for a laundry company at Twenty-second and Cuming Streets, where his wife was also employed for awhile, when she left, to wait table at Balduff's restaurant. After quitting time, about 9 o'clock at night, one of the men in the restaurant accompanied her to the home of her parents at Fifteenth and Leavenworth Streets. Henry, being of a jealous disposition, shadowed her to her destination; entering the house by the rear door he asked to see his wife in private, which privilege was accorded him. Flushed with the spirit of jealousy and liquor, he fired two shots of a 38-caliber revolver into the breast of his wife, causing instant death. On October 23rd Henry changed his plea from first to second degree murder and was by Judge Sutton sentenced to imprisonment for life, which sentence he is yet serving.

CHAPTER XXXI.

1910.

The notorious Mabray trial at Council Bluffs attracted world-wide attention. The Mabrays were a gang of race-track swindlers who had so successfully played their game from coast to coast, that they had swindled various sums, aggregating more than a million dollars. It was claimed that this gang was first organized in Omaha, but moved its headquarters to Council Bluffs, from which place it operated. They were apprehended by the federal government for using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes. The trial of the cases were long drawn out, as victims from every state in the Union were witnesses against the gang—resulting in the conviction of thirteen of its most notorious members, including Mabray the leader. All were sentenced to varied terms at the Fort Leavenworth prison. In this gang there appeared to be one man named Mike, whose duty it was to find the victims; that was the only name he was known by; one victim after another testified that “Mike” got their money, hence a new word was coined as a substitute for the one, “buncoed,”—that of “Miked.”

The Nye-Schneider-Fowler Grain and Storage Elevator was destroyed by fire, loss \$200,000.

July 28th was the hottest in many years, it being 104 in the shade; but one death was reported as a result of sunstroke.

The German Saengerfest was held in Omaha; it was composed of the members of that organization of five northwestern states; there being sixty-one societies represented, having a delegation of 2,000 singers, making one of the main features in the daylight Ak-Sar-Ben parade of that year.

It was this year in which James C. Dahlman, mayor of Omaha, secured the democratic nomination for governor of this state against Shallenberger, the then governor. The campaign was carried on from Omaha, the issue being County Option vs. Local Option. Mr. Aldrich, the candidate on the republican ticket, espoused the cause of county option and was elected, while a majority of the House and Senate were elected on the local option issue. Mayor Dahlman would have been elected were it not that W. J. Bryan threw his powerful influence against him, stumping the state against the head of his own party ticket, an act which Mr. Dahlman had good reason to class as the sting of an ingrate, as the Mayor had been one of Bryan's faithful followers in his many campaigns.

George Nattinger, secretary-treasurer of the Omaha Loan and Building Association, died; he was for years secretary of the Omaha Board of Trade, as well as one of the original organizers and founders of the loan and building association, of which he was an officer from its beginning.

CHAPTER XXXII.

1911.

Mr. Erdman was found guilty of attempting to dynamite the residence of Tom Dennison, on Sherman Avenue. He was prosecuted by James English, county attorney, and defended by John O. Yeiser. The facts in this case, as I recall them, were these: Erdman was a gambler and gave damaging information against parties in Omaha who were engaged in that business in various secluded places. In turn the gamblers were making it very unpleasant for him, and whether he wished to wreak his vengeance on Mr. Dennison or not, I am not in a position to know; suffice it to say that one Sunday morning, while the Dennison family were away from home, an infernal machine was placed on their porch, which did not go off. Children playing in the yard claimed to identify Erdman as the party leaving the machine there. Two city detectives, Mitchell and Drummy, immediately placed Erdman under arrest, his trial and conviction soon following. He appealed to the supreme court, where the case was reversed and remanded; I do not recall the case ever going on trial again; however, I have seen Erdman on the streets of Omaha a number of times since the supreme court reversed the verdict of the jury that found him guilty.

An effort was made to dynamite the new court house; to that extent two bombs were unsuccessfully used. This was during the structural iron workers' strike, which extended all over the country, and which resulted in the trial and conviction of many members of that union in the United States court at Los Angeles, California, at or about the same time. The damages to the court house did not exceed \$10,000; this was owing to the fact that the building had not yet reached the second story.

Herman Cohn, owner and proprietor of the Loyal Hotel of Omaha, was shot and instantly killed by a highwayman about 10 o'clock at night while returning to his home in company with his son, Loyal. The murderer was never apprehended.

Captain Palmer, ex-postmaster of Omaha and head of the old established insurance firm of H. E. Palmer & Sons, died suddenly at his home.

The Nebraska State Senate passed the Grossman Bill, appropriating \$100,000 for the erection of the Nebraska Medical University at Omaha. To Senator John Grossman of this city is due the credit of securing for Omaha this university.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

1912.

The curfew ordinance was once more put in force, to the great annoyance of youngsters of the city; it differed, however, in sound and warning to that historic old bell, as it was the shrill sound of a steam whistle.

The Mural pictures for the Douglas County Court House were completed and exhibited in the east before being brought here; there were eight canvasses in all, being very handsome and appropriate.

The Working Girls' Home won its suit in the supreme court, in which that court upheld the gift of the home as provided in the will of the late Count John A. Creighton. Many of the heirs of the deceased sought to break that provision of the will which set aside about \$60,000 for the purpose of founding a Working Girls' Home; the purpose of the heirs being to annul that provision of the will, thereby dividing this sum amongst them. This home is now built, and managed by a Roman Catholic order called "The Little Sisters" and is proving a boon for poor girls out of employment.

J. S. Owen of this city was struck by a street car at Fortieth and Hamilton Streets, and was instantly killed; for more than 30 years he was an efficient employee of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Omaha.

The Associated Press made Omaha the distributing point for the Trans-Missouri country.

The school board of Omaha gave permission to the public to occupy the school buildings evenings for non-religious and non-political meetings. For a number of years the public sought this permission but were denied by a hostile and short-sighted school board; the matter became an issue in the election of members of the board that year, and I contributed my humble mite through the columns of the papers and at all public meetings in an effort to open the schools for the purpose of discussing matters of a local nature, and measures in general in which the public were interested.

George W. Doane, former judge of the district court, died of pneumonia December 20th.

Thomas Brennan died at the age of 55 years. He came to Omaha in 1885 direct from Ireland, having to flee from that country owing to his activity in Irish affairs, more particularly the Land League agitation of that time. Mr. Brennan was one of the founders of the Land League and was forced to leave Ireland and flee to Paris to save the funds of the organization

from confiscation, he being its secretary. On his arrival in Omaha he formed a partnership with Dennis Cunningham in the real estate business. During the first year of the existence of the firm I was their bookkeeper. At the time of his death he was a member of the firm of Brennan & Love.

Edgar Allen, head of the firm of Allen Bros., wholesale grocers, died.

Emil Brandeis, a member of the firm of J. L. Brandeis & Sons, was drowned in the Titanic disaster in April of this year; his body was recovered and he was buried in Omaha. Hugo Brandeis, another brother of the J. L. Brandeis & Sons company, died in July of that year.

The Republican National Convention was held in Chicago and all eyes were pointed in that direction, owing to the report that but a few votes either way would decide the choice of the convention as between President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt. During the early stage of the convention, or by opening day, excitement was at fever heat; bulletins were posted on the bulletin board of the Bee building, where hundreds of excited friends of both candidates were assembled eager for the news. It was a source of great pleasure to many, including myself, to read the bulletins from the building owned by the temporary chairman of the convention, an Omaha boy, Dr. Victor Rosewater, editor of the Bee; this was an honor worthy the greatest man in the nation, more so because of the conditions then existing in the party, coupled with the temper of the convention and the exceptional length of time that he was forced to preside.

Chief of Police John J. Donahue died in August. He was one of the most capable officers that ever served on the police force of this city, having filled different offices in the department with honor and credit, attaining this high office in 1900, serving at times through a perilous siege of attacks from pious frauds.

The Woodmen of the World Building was dedicated in October of that year; it is a sixteen-story fireproof building and is the headquarters of the order.

Daniel Wheeler died of paralysis, at the age of 76; he served about ten years in the Omaha City Council and was during most of that time chairman of its finance committee, and became generally known as the "watchdog of the treasury." It was my pleasure to have served in that body with him, a part of which time I was on the finance committee, and of him I must say that the title, "Watchdog of the Treasury," was justly due him. I never met a more painstaking public servant, nor one more conversant with the city's finances than he, and a more fatherly and lovable man never lived.

J. J. Deright, head of the Deright Safe Company and later an automobile company of that name, met his death by the accidental discharge of a shot-gun.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

1913.

The Dewey Hotel, a four-story brick, on the corner of Thirteenth and Farnam Streets, was destroyed by fire. There were several lives lost and many persons injured; the loss was placed at \$200,000.

The Omaha High School was formally dedicated.

Edward E. Black, for more than 50 years a resident of this city, died in March at the age of 69 years. He was the father of Edward Black of Omaha, a well known newspaper man now employed on the Omaha Bee.

In March of this year Omaha was visited by a terrific tornado, resulting in 185 deaths and hundreds of people injured, and a property loss of \$1,000,000, details of which are given in another separate article in this book.

Officer Cunningham was wounded by a negro in the basement of Ed Maurer's restaurant; the officer shot and instantly killed his assailant. Mr. Cunningham has fully recovered and is now on the detective force. Officer Ferris, who, with Cunningham, made the arrest, was also shot but not seriously injured.

The greatest Italian demonstration ever held in the west took place here in Omaha on Columbus Day, it being the 421st anniversary of the landing of Columbus. There were 3,000 people in the parade with five bands.

A serious street car accident occurred on Twenty-fourth and Ames Avenue, in which twenty people were injured.

Two new buildings were added to the School for the Deaf at Omaha.

Carl Hans Lody contested the suit of his wife, Louise Storz-Lody, for a divorce. Lody will be remembered as the man who, in 1915, was executed in the tower of London, having been convicted as a German spy.

Frank Riley, a young man employed at the post office, was drowned in Carter Lake; he was the son of Bernard Riley, born and raised in this city, and was loved by all who knew him.

CHAPTER XXXV.

1914.

Henry Yates celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday by keeping open house to all of his friends.

The Charity Ball was a social and financial success; the sum of \$3,650 was turned over to Miss Magee, head of the City Mission.

Melba and Kubelik appeared before one of the largest audiences ever convened in the Auditorium.

One of the most daring and brazen holdups that ever took place in Omaha was that at the place of residence of Hazel McVey, a resort of ill-repute at Fifteenth and Chicago Streets. Three bandits entered the house about 11 o'clock at night and cut the 'phone wires; one locked the landlady in the kitchen, robbed her of her diamonds, while the other two commanded all the inmates to throw up their hands and submit to a frisk. A young man named Nichols, failing to comply with orders, was shot and instantly killed. The bandits were all apprehended, having been located in different states, were brought back, tried and given sentences of imprisonment for life. In this place were some of Omaha's most prominent citizens who, by one pretense after another, managed not to have their identity known. As a result of the McVey robbery, John Ryder, who was in charge of the police department, offered his resignation, but a compromise was reached, whereby Commissioner Kugel was given the police department and Ryder that of street repairs.

A duplicate building of the Clarkson Hospital was built on the west side of the old building at a cost of \$80,000.

Judge William Altstadt died of heart failure at the age of 76 years; he was justice of the peace in Omaha for twelve years, and was such at the time of his death. He was a short, bulky, witty German, and was familiarly known as "Little Bismarck." His justice office was for years adjoining my office in the Paxton Block, and many are the occasions when I evidenced his unique way of arriving at and rendering his judgments—they had no parallel in all jurisprudence.

Mr. D. Clem Deaver died in February, at the age of 50 years. He was born in Ohio and came to Nebraska when a young man, and to Omaha in 1887. He was one of the founders of the populist party and was prominent in it up to the time they affiliated with the democratic party in 1900; he was chairman of its national committee and two terms chairman of the state central committee; was its candidate for congress from this district in 1892 and steward at the Deaf Institute at Omaha for four years. He supported President McKinley in 1900 and was appointed by him receiver of the land office at O'Neill, Nebraska, and was reappointed by President Roosevelt in 1907, after which he resigned to accept the office of land and colonization agent for the B. & M. railroad, which position he held at the time of his death. Mr. Deaver was the soul of honor, loyal to his God, his family, his country and his friends.

Boyd's old theatre was sold to Burgess-Nash & Company, to make room for their growing trade; the price was \$245,000. Many of the greatest actors and actresses of the day have appeared in that theatre.

May 10th was designated by proclamation of the President as Mother's Day.

In June a day was assigned by the school board as Play Day, and 5,000 children took part in the exercises at Fort Omaha. The day being exceedingly hot, there were a number of prostrations, some of which were serious, so they decided to have no more exercises of that kind. There were 30,000 spectators present on that occasion.

Four persons were killed when a train hit an auto on the West Center road; this is a dangerous crossing and there have been several such accidents there.

Ralph Connell, son of W. J. Connell of this city, was shot and killed on a ranch in New Mexico; he was an Omaha boy—born, raised and educated in this city, and was married to an Omaha girl before leaving for his ranch in Mexico.

Mrs. George Tilden died at the age of 61 years; the deceased was the wife of Dr. George Tilden. Both of them were Omaha pioneers. Mrs. Tilden was prominent in all matters of benevolent and charitable work, and a leader in the women's clubs.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

1915.

Henry W. Yates died at the age of 77. He was one of Omaha's pioneers, and one of the leading financiers of the United States. In the presidential campaign of 1896 he contributed as much as any one man of that time to the literature and logic that resulted in the crushing defeat of the Free Silver fallacy then advocated by W. J. Bryan and his followers. Mr. Yates followed the banking business from his youth, organized the Nebraska National Bank of Omaha, of which he was president from its starting in 1881, to the time of his death.

Major T. S. Clarkson died in Oregon and his body was brought to Omaha for burial. He was postmaster of this city from October 1, 1890, to February 12, 1895; was a pioneer citizen of Omaha and served one term as national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Judge A. L. Sutton resigned from the office of judge of the District Court of Douglas County, having served in that capacity for a continuous period of twelve years.

Omaha was struck with the jitney fever; so great was the malady that it soon developed into an epidemic. The jitney was a new thing here, and the novelty as well as the pleasure of riding a considerable distance in an auto for five cents was a treat. They were unrestricted and unhampered by legislation and police regulation, because of their sudden and unexpected advent as a mode of transportation and travel. They soon became so numerous that they were a nuisance—so much so that the city council was forced to pass an ordinance regulating them. No sooner had they become regulated than they became relegated, so that in the latter part of this year there remains but one direct line in which they operate, from Fourteenth to Fortieth and Farnam. The poor jitney, I fear, will soon be as rare a sight as a red Indian on Staten Island.

Mrs. Samuel Rees, Sr., died. She was one of Omaha's pioneers. For more than 40 years the home of the Rees family has been located on the corner of Twenty-second and Leavenworth Streets, where Samuel Rees, the husband, and his son Samuel, Jr., yet reside.

The \$1,000,000 Fontenelle Hotel opened in February with a banquet, at which were about one thousand of Omaha's most prominent men and women; Gurdon W. Wattles was toastmaster on the occasion. The hotel is located on the corner of Eighteenth and Douglas Streets, a twelve-story brick building, on ground 132 feet square, with accommodations equal to any hotel in the United States. To the public spirit of Mr. Wattles, president of the hotel company, is due in a great measure the credit of having such a magnificent hotel here.

W. H. Smith, cashier of the Woodmen of the World, was shot and killed near Bemis Park by a footpad, who made his escape, but was apprehended at Topeka, Kansas, was brought to Omaha, tried and convicted of murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Tom Ring, one of Omaha's efficient detectives, was shot and instantly killed by a Mexican, who made his escape, but was caught at Norfolk, Nebraska, after many days' hunt and a hard fight for his freedom by the murderer. He was brought to Omaha for trial and was defended by ex-Judge Sutton and prosecuted by County Attorney George A. Magney; was found guilty of second degree murder and given life imprisonment.

George Shirley and wife were asphyxiated by gas from a defective heater. Mr. Shirley was the son of one of Omaha's pioneer citizens, Michael Shirley, of the contracting firm of Phelan & Shirley.

Tag Day netted \$3,348 for the Visiting Nurses' fund, being the most ever raised by like means in this city.

The year 1915 was the banner year in the history of Nebraska, for both rain and crops; there were but two months—April and October—of the entire year that it did not rain, either at night or during the day. The months of April and October were two of the most pleasant ones I have observed in my thirty-five years' residence in Omaha. I am pleased to note the contrast between the year 1880, when I came here, and that of 1915; the first named was one of intense heat, scarcely any rain, with dry hot winds and discouraging prospects for farmers—light crops and but small returns. While that of 1915 was diametrically reverse; plenty of rain, abundant crops, eager purchasers, a ready market and handsome returns, with the demand greater than the supply; giving evidence of the fact that a benign Providence is fast showering its blessings on the people of this, the best state in the Union, for which we should in turn offer our fervent prayers and thanksgiving.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

1916.

At first it was not my intention to include the year 1916 in this work, but owing to unavoidable delays I was unable to complete this book until the middle of this year; and finding so many events of importance had taken place during that portion of the year I deemed it advisable to enumerate and include in this work the year "1916."

In doing this it will necessitate some reference to men of whom I have written and who died during this year, as well as many changes that have taken place since 1915—or during the following year, in both men and affairs.

In this connection I note with much regret the death of James P. English, one of the judges of our district court, who died on February 20th, and was beloved by all who knew him. Also John Power, who served Douglas county as sheriff for six years, and was known as one of the best sheriffs who ever filled this office; he died January 7th. Right Rev. Richard Scannell, who for twenty-five years was Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Omaha, and of whom it may be said there was no more saintly or scholarly man in the state, died January 8th. His funeral sermon was pronounced by Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, Minnesota, and was a gem of eloquence and pathos. On May 21st, John C. Drexel, one of the commissioners of this city, died; during his life he was county coroner, sheriff and county clerk, respectively, of Douglas County, and was deservedly popular. He was born in this county in 1858.

This being the year in which the sun in its quadrennial and biennial march around the world pointed the dial of time to

that period where it became necessary for the American people to elect their national, state and county officers. It is doubtful whether the history of this nation furnishes a parallel in interest and excitement equal to that shown in the national campaign of this year. That Wilson and Marshall would be renominated for president and vice-president, respectively, was a foregone conclusion, but with the republican party there were many candidates, and not until after the convening of the national convention of republicans at Chicago, was there any certainty of the ones to be selected.

In this state the friends of Charles E. Hughes were active in his behalf; Victor Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, was his ablest supporter and champion, but Senator Cummins of Iowa carried the delegation, while ex-Senator Burkett of this state secured the delegation for vice-president. During the entire week of the national convention at Chicago, commencing as it did June 2nd, excitement ran high on our streets and never subsided until June 10th, the day on which Hughes and Fairbanks received the nomination for president and vice-president, respectively, which selection met with enthusiastic approbation.

For United States senator from this state at the primary, John L. Kennedy of Omaha and ex-Governor Aldrich, of Lincoln, were the candidates for the republican nomination, Kennedy securing it. On the democratic ticket for this office the present United States Senator G. M. Hitchcock of Omaha and I. J. Dunn, an Omaha attorney, were the candidates. Mr. Hitchcock received the nomination, though bitterly fought by W. J. Bryan.

For governor of this state A. L. Sutton of Omaha, ex-judge of the district court, received the republican nomination, and on the democratic ticket for this office; Keith Neville of North Platte and Charles W. Bryan of Lincoln, brother of W. J. Bryan, were the candidates. Mr. Neville was nominated. The primary of this year was held in the month of April, which served the purpose of nominating national, state and county candidates.

June 14th was, by proclamation of the governor and Mayor Dahlman of Omaha, declared Flag Day and a holiday. It was estimated that 30,000 men, women and children marched and paraded our streets on that day, all carrying an American flag. This occasion was for the purpose of arousing the patriotism of the American people, of which I could see no apparent need.

The Fourth of July brought thousands of people to Omaha from all over this and adjoining states, not with any patriotic purpose, however, but to witness a widely advertised wrestling match at the Fair Grounds near Benson, between Joe Stecher of this state, champion wrestler of the world, and a man named Lewis. Not less than 10,000 people witnessed this gigantic farce, which partook more of the appearance of a footrace than that

of a wrestling match, as the participants at no time during the five hours' struggle engaged in wrestling, to the disgust and disappointment of those who paid to witness what they thought would be a match of national fame.

The year 1916 being the bi-centennial of the admission of this state into the Union, the event was befittingly celebrated, as in the early part of the year an organization was perfected, composed of the leading men of the state, who designated Omaha as the place in which the celebration should take place, the time being from the 1st to the 10th of October. G. W. Wattles was chairman of the organization, which in itself warranted the success of the undertaking. This celebration was held jointly with that of the annual festivity of the Ak-Sar-Ben. It was during this time, on October 5th, that President and Mrs. Wilson visited Omaha, as the invited guests of the two organizations. An historic parade was one of the events of that day in which the President and Mrs. Wilson participated, being in the lead in an automobile. Leaving it when they reached the court house, and entering a grand stand which was erected there, they, their party and a number of prominent citizens, reviewed the parade, which was more than two miles long, and included about 500 Indians from the various reservations. The president and wife expressed themselves as being delighted with the great ovation given them, as well as the opportunity of seeing for themselves a sample of western pioneer life, from which sprang the marvelous progress of the West of today.

Omaha, on this occasion, entertained the largest crowd ever assembled in any western city, there being approximately 300,000 visitors. In the evening the president addressed the greatest number of people ever crowded into the Auditorium, after which he and his party returned directly to Washington.

Since writing my article in a previous chapter on Omaha's progress, some new and costly buildings have been erected, and others are in course of construction. I will note the ones on Farnam Street—the World-Herald building on Fifteenth Street, on the old corner well known to the early settlers as the "Wabash Corner." It is erected on a full city lot with one storeroom facing Farnam and three more on Fifteenth Street, on the north end. The building is eight stories high with basement, which is used as the press room, extending the entire length of the building. The second and third floors are occupied by the company for its own use, and the others are rented for offices. The building is a very imposing edifice, a credit to Omaha and a lasting monument to the energy, grit and persistency of our present United States Senator, G. M. Hitchcock, the founder of the World-Herald and its principal owner.

The First National Bank of Omaha has completed and is preparing to occupy its new sixteen-story and basement building,

ereected on the southwest corner of Sixteenth and Farnam, on the ground formerly occupied by the old Board of Trade building. It stands on a full city lot; the ground floor has store rooms on both Sixteenth and Farnam Streets, the first floor being used by the bank itself, the others rented for offices.

The northeast corner of Eighteenth and Douglas Streets, where the Strand Theater is located, has been purchased by the Omaha Athletic Club, a recent corporation. This building is soon to give way to a magnificent one which is to cost about \$300,000 and will be one of the finest in the west owned by any athletic club. W. A. Frazer, Sovereign Commander of the Woodmen of the World, is president, and John C. Wharton, late postmaster of Omaha, is secretary.

The Nebraska Telephone Company has purchased the northwest corner of Nineteenth and Douglas Streets, the old Dr. Tilden home, at a cost of \$100,000, and has plans ready for the construction of a million-dollar building from which they will operate their network of wires for the entire city.

The Masonic building, at Nineteenth and Douglas Streets, now in course of construction, promises to be one of the finest of its kind in the west; the estimate cost of this magnificent structure will be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000.

On October 16th, Charles E. Hughes, republican candidate for president, delivered an address at the Omaha Auditorium to a house so densely packed that further admission was a physical impossibility. While the building is the most spacious of any west of Chicago, it is claimed that on this occasion fully 10,000 people were unable to gain admission. I had the pleasure of occupying a seat on the stage a few feet from this great man, and shall long remember his telling blows against the democratic party.

As previously stated, the political issue in this state assumed fever heat. Campaigners of more or less fame were numerous in battling for the success of their respective parties. In point of interest and excitement it bore a striking resemblance to the McKinley-Bryan campaign of 1896. As the campaign progressed, party lines were not so closely drawn, as a local issue had been injected into the campaign which resulted disastrously for the republican party—national, state and county. The issue injected was the prohibition question, or the amendment to the State Constitution prohibiting the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors in this state.

Neither party made it a platform issue, but the most remarkable part of it was the republican candidate for United States Senator, John L. Kennedy, and Judge A. L. Sutton, the republican candidate for governor, both espoused the cause of pro-

hibition and both were defeated, yet the amendment was carried by 30,000 majority. President Wilson carried the state by 41,000. United States Senator Hitchcock was returned to the senate by 12,000 majority and Keith Neville, also a democrat, defeated his republican opponent by 10,000 votes, and for the first time in the history of the state all the state offices were filled by democrats. In this congressional district the present incumbent, C. O. Lobeck, defeated his republican opponent, Judge Benjamin Baker, by the unheard of majority of 6,000 votes.

On the county ticket the republicans elected but three men, Robert Smith succeeding himself as clerk of the District Court, Frank Dewey also succeeding himself as county clerk, both republicans. Mike Clark, republican, defeated Phil McShane, the present incumbent of the office of sheriff, a democrat. Two republican county commissioners were defeated for re-election—Gus Heart and Frank Best, their successors being Jeff Bedford and A. D. Compton, giving the democrats control of the board of county commissioners for the first time in years. For the second time in the history of the county, the democrats elected a county superintendent of schools, T. J. Keenan, a recent graduate of Creighton College. M. L. Endres, democrat, was elected county treasurer, defeating E. G. Saloman, republican. George A. Magney, democrat, and one of the most obliging, capable and competent men who ever filled public office, was re-elected county attorney by 10,000 majority.

The present judges of the District Court, Willis G. Sears, Lee Estelle, A. C. Troup, William A. Redick, George A. Day, Charles Leslie and Arthur Wakely, were re-elected. It will be remembered that Judge Wakely was filling a vacancy caused by the death of Judge English. This appointment was made by Governor Moorhead March 1 of this year. Bryce Crawford was re-elected county judge for the third consecutive time. Lou Adams was re-elected as county surveyor.

It is with much pleasure that I note the appointment of J. W. Woodrough of Omaha to the office of United States District Judge of this district. He was appointed to this office April 3 by President Wilson, was confirmed by the senate a few days thereafter, taking his seat April 24, succeeding the late W. H. Munger, who was appointed by President Cleveland March 1, 1897—being his last official act. Mr. Woodrough is one of the youngest judges on the federal bench, and is proving himself in every way equal to the task reposed in him. He is a man of charming personality, courteous and accommodating. A brief biography of him will be found in another chapter of this book.

On June 1, George Parks of the South Side was appointed by the city commissioners to fill the vacancy on that board caused by the death of John C. Drexel. He was given the department formerly held by Mr. Drexel, superintendent of street cleaning

and maintenance. Mr. Parks was for a number of years engaged in the paving business in South Omaha, is a practical business man and has displayed marked ability in handling his department. He is a man of means and does not believe that a public office is a private snap.

In October the city commissioners entered into a contract with the Omaha Electric Light Company, which contract was in the form of an ordinance, in which the Electric Light Company was to be given and granted a five-year contract for lighting the city, conditioned that the company would install 1,000 additional arc lights free and reduce its price to consumers to 6 cents per kilowatt hour. In order to forestall the action of the commissioners, petitions were circulated by R. B. Howell and others, calling for a referendum vote of the people on the ordinance. A sufficient number of signers were secured and an election was held on December 4, at which the ordinance or contract was ratified by a substantial majority vote of the people, thus assuring the commissioners of the confidence they have in them, as well as a token of the friendly relationship which the many acts of the president of the Electric Light Company, General G. H. Harries, has been the cause of establishing between the people and his company. The passage and approval of this ordinance by the commissioners and the voters will make Omaha one of the best lighted cities in the United States and will give the consumers a rate cheaper than can be procured by a municipally owned plant.

In the early part of this year the Ford Automobile Company located a branch of its extensive plant in Omaha, a building six stories high, embracing and covering one city block, from Fifteenth to Sixteenth and Webster to Icard Streets. Hundreds of automobiles of this make are assembled at this plant each month, with a working force of some 300 men. This company pays the highest wages of any in the United States to its employees.

On May 1, 1917, the State of Nebraska will be placed in the column of prohibition states, as the result of the verdict of the people of this state in the November election of this year. In an article written by me in 1915, which can be found in another chapter of this book under the heading "The Prohibition Question," will show the causes that led up to the submission of this question. As to how rigid this law will be made and the machinery through which it is to be enforced, will be a matter for the coming legislature to devise. If a liberal supply of liquor is permitted to be brought into the state for domestic use, then the law may accomplish its purpose. Should a "bone-dry" law be passed, its repeal would be only a matter of opportunity.

On December 15, Archbishop Jeremiah J. Harty arrived in Omaha from the Philippine Islands. He was met at Columbus,

Nebraska, by a delegation of prominent citizens headed by Mayor Dahlman of this city. A special train was chartered for the occasion. On December 21 he was installed as bishop of the Omaha Diocese at the new cathedral in this city. The occasion was one of the most ceremonious ever witnessed in this state. Archbishop Harty was, previous to coming to Omaha, Archbishop of the Philippine Islands, where for thirteen years he ruled the archdiocese of Manila. His see extended over the largest territory and contained the greatest number of Catholics of any archdiocese of the Roman Catholic church. From the impressions formed by many of our citizens who have met the archbishop and from his public expressions it is freely predicted that he will make one of the most popular and beloved bishops who have filled that exalted position during the sixty years of the existence of the diocese. His predecessors were the saintly O'Gorman, O'Connor and Scannell.

At the November election James M. Fitzgerald and R. J. Madden were elected police judges for the city of Omaha on the democratic ticket, defeating the present incumbents, Charles E. Foster and J. C. Reed, republicans. The two judges are men of broad vision and even, judicial temperament, qualifications the possession of which the retiring judge, Foster, was sadly deficient.

On December 25 my son, Charles Bryan, received as a Christmas gift from the Catholic University of America at Washington, D. C., a scholarship comprising a four-year course at that institution free of charge. This honor came without solicitation and is the first of its kind to be conferred on any boy west of the Missouri River. It was given to him personally by one of the faculty, the Rev. John O'Grady, formerly of this city, who came to Omaha in person for that sole purpose. He received offers of scholarships from several other large colleges in the United States, but accepted this as being the most advantageous to the course he intends to pursue, that of law. He will go to Washington to enter upon his study in September, 1917, after graduating from the Central High School the preceding year.

This year the city commissioners awarded a contract to remodel our City Hall at an expense of some \$50,000. Some of it is being expended in making the basement of the building an office floor, adding an additional floor to the other six, and will give access to the building level with the sidewalk, dispensing with the many steps that had led to the original first floor. This expenditure would never have been needed had a majority of the city council coincided with me when that building was in course of construction. I was a member of the council at that time, and I persistently fought for what is now being done. In addition it was my purpose to make this floor the city jail and

police headquarters, but I was ridiculed and derided by my associates, notably Chaffee, Bechtel, Wheeler and Davis. I presume this is but another sample of foresight and hindsight.

On May 18 George Rogers died. He was for a number of years engaged in the wholesale and retail cigar business in Omaha. He resided in the city for the past thirty years and was a prominent democrat of both the city and state; was a member of the governor's staff and a candidate for sheriff on the democratic ticket at the recent primary. Mr. Rogers was one of nature's noblemen; his friends were legion, with not a deserving enemy.

Hugh Murphy, one of Omaha's wealthy and honored citizens, died August 8. He came to Omaha in 1880 from Galena, Ill., where he was born sixty-four years ago; was a bricklayer by profession, but shortly after arriving here he engaged in the paving contracting business, in which he was engaged at the time of his death. He was by nature adapted to the business which he for years carried on, and through which he became immensely wealthy. He was big-hearted, frank and generous. Mr. Murphy and myself were warm personal friends, a friendship which began in August, 1880, when he and I were roommates, and which continued during his lifetime.

In a previous chapter of these Memories I had occasion to note a spirit of bigotry and intolerance which swept over this city in the early '90s, fed and nurtured by an order known as the A. P. A. As that organization flourished and faded away, it was hoped that such a blight would never again affect a homogeneous community. But this ghost, robed in a sheet of muslin, began to stalk. It was not Banco's ghost, nor would it down; it was the ghost of the Pope of Rome having a sinister motive, namely the destruction of our republic, through the aid of the Roman Catholic Church. The new uprising sailed and masked under a new name, that of the Knights of Luther, having the same object and purpose as that of the old A. P. A.'s, the memory of which would make the cheeks of the sons of the latter tingle with the blush of shame to know that their fathers were ever affiliated with it. On the eve of the election the old-time pink ticket made its appearance on the streets with instructions how and for whom to vote. The candidates who were Roman Catholics or Catholic sympathizers were marked in bold black type so as to warn the voter. Notwithstanding their contemptible work, every candidate so marked was elected with few exceptions. Andrew Morrissey, candidate for supreme judge, and Judge Lee S. Estelle, candidate for district judge, both Roman Catholics, were both marked for defeat, but were both elected by big majorities.

In this work I have sought to be fair and impartial to all men and to all religious denominations, but when a body of men

claiming to be loyal American citizens will band together for such an unjust and uncalled for attack upon the patriotism and loyalty of the Roman Catholic citizens of this community, more especially when our nation is likely at any hour to call upon her citizens to defend her flag against the encroachment of a foreign foe, I feel that such conduct should not go unchallenged. For if that conflict should arise I know of no better and truer way of expressing not only my own love and veneration for that flag, but that of every other Catholic in this nation, should our loyalty to this nation, for which we have shed our blood on every battlefield in its defense from Yorktown to Appomattox, be brought into question than in the following few chosen lines:

They say I do not love thee
Flag of my native land,
Whose meteor folds above me
To the free breeze expand;
Thy broad stripes proudly streaming,
And thy stars so brightly beaming.

They say I would forsake thee,
Should some dark crisis lower;
That recreant I would make thee
Couch to a foreign power;
Seduced by license ample,
On the best flag to trample.

False are the words they utter,
Ungenerous their brand,
And rash the oaths they mutter,
Flag of my native land;
While still in hope above me
There wavest—and I love thee.

They say that bolts of thunder,
Hurled by the Pontiff's hand,
May rive and bring thee under,
Flag of my native land;
And with one blow dissever
My heart from thee forever.

God is my love's first duty,
To whose eternal name
Be praise for all thy beauty,
Thy grandeur and thy fame,
But ever have I reckoned
Thine native flag its second.

Woe to the foe or stranger
Whose sacrilegious hand
Would touch thee or endanger,
Flag of my native land;
Though some should fain discard thee,
Mine should be raised to guard thee.

Then wave, thou first of banners,
And in thy genial shade
Let creeds, opinions, manners,
In love and peace be laid;
And there all discord ended,
Our hearts and souls be blended.

Steam on, steam on before us,
 Thou labarum of light,
 While in one genial chorus
 Our vows to thee we plight;
 Unfaithful to thee, never!
 My country's flag forever.

At the fall election the following named municipal judges were elected: C. W. Britt, A. E. Baldwin and George Holmes. They were the first elected judges to this newly created office. They have co-jurisdiction with that of the County Court, and have removed from the public the much detested justice of the peace court.

On December 10, George P. Bemis, ex-mayor of Omaha, died. He was twice elected mayor of Omaha. His election and administration is fully set forth in another chapter of this book. Mr. Bemis, though a lifelong Protestant, became a convert to the Catholic church but a few days before his death.

In this work I have endeavored to note most of the important events that have taken place in Omaha during my residence here of thirty-six years. I am proud of Omaha. I love the state of Nebraska and its people, I love the West because of the broad-mindedness of its men and women. In this connection it might be asked: Where does the West begin? The following will suffice for the answer:

Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing—
 Out where the handclasp's a little stronger,
 Out where the smile dwells a little longer,
 That's where the West begins.
 Out where the sun is a little brighter,
 Where the snows that fall are a trifle whiter,
 Where the bonds of home are wee bit tighter—
 That's where the West begins.

Out where the skies are a trifle bluer,
 Out where friendship's a little truer,
 Where there's laughter in every streamlet flowing,
 That's where the West begins.
 Out where a fresher breeze is blowing,
 Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing—
 That's where the West begins.

Out where the world is in the making,
 Where fewer hearts in despair are aching,
 That's where the West begins.
 Where there's more of singing and less of sighing,
 Where there's more of giving and less of buying,
 And a man makes friends without half trying—
 That's where the West begins.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

OMAHA CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS.**Presbyterian.**

Lowe Avenue, 1023 North Fortieth—Rev. A. F. Ernst.
First, Y. M. C. A.—Rev. E. H. Jenks.
North, Twenty-fourth and Wirt—Rev. M. V. Higbee.
Parkvale, Twenty-first and Gold—Rev. R. W. Taylor.
Castellar, Sixteenth and Castellar—Rev. C. C. Meeks.
Clifton Hill, Forty-fifth and Grant—Rev. B. R. von der Lippe.
Dundee, Fiftieth and Underwood—Rev. H. B. Foster.

Methodist.

Trinity, Twenty-first and Binney—Rev. C. W. DeLamatre.
Swedish, Nineteenth and Burt—Rev. Gustav Erickson.
McCabe, Forty-first and Farnam—Rev. W. H. Underwood.
Hanseom Park, Woolworth and Georgia Ave.—Rev. E. D. Hull.
First, Twentieth and Davenport—Rev. Titus Lowe.

Baptist.

Calvary, Twenty-fifth and Hamilton—J. A. Maxwell.
Immanuel, Twenty-fourth and Pinkney—A. J. Morris.
Grace, Tenth and Arbor—Rev. E. B. Taft.

Lutheran.

Danish, Twenty-sixth and Hamilton—Rev. M. W. Halverson.
Grace English, Twenty-sixth and Poppleton—Rev. C. N. Swihart.
St. Mathew's English, Nineteenth and Castellar—Rev. G. W. Snyder.
Zion, Thirty-sixth and Lafayette Ave.—Rev. A. T. Lorimer.
Kountze Memorial, Twenty-sixth and Farnam—Rev. O. D. Baltzly.

Episcopal.

St. Andrew's, Twenty-fourth and Charles—Rev. J. E. Flockhart.
Dietz Memorial, Tenth and Pierce—Rev. C. N. Dawson.
All Saints, 504 South Twenty-sixth—Rev. T. J. Mackay.
Good Shepherd, Twentieth and Ohio—Rev. T. J. Collar.
St. Barnabas', Fortieth and Davenport—Rev. Lloyd Halsapple.
St. John's, Twenty-fifth and Brown—Rev. O. H. Cleveland.
St. Martin's, Twenty-fourth and J—Rev. John Wallis.
St. Mathias', Tenth and Worthington—Rev. A. E. Wells.
St. Philip's the Deacon, 1121 North Twenty-first—Rev. J. A. Williams.
Trinity Cathedral, Eighteenth and Capitol Ave.—Rev. J. A. Tancock.

Christian Science.

Second Church, Dundee Hall.
First, Twenty-fourth and St. Mary's Ave.

United Evangelical.

Grace, Twenty-seventh and Camden—Rev. T. M. Evans.

Congregational.

St. Mary's Avenue—Twenty-seventh and St. Mary's Ave.—Rev. A. J. Hurlburt.

Plymouth, Eighteenth and Emmet—Rev. F. W. Leavitt.

United Presbyterian.

Central, Twenty-fourth and Dodge—Rev. H. B. Speer.

Latter Day Saints.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, Twenty-fourth and Ohio.

Unitarian.

Unitarian, Turpin Hall, Twenty-eighth and Farnam—Rev. W. F. Greenman.

Christian.

North Side, Twenty-second and Lothrop—Rev. G. L. Peters.

First, Twenty-sixth and Harney—Rev. C. E. Cobbey.

Miscellaneous.

People's Church, 515 North Eighteenth—Rev. Charles Savage.

Church of Life, 815 North Eighteenth—Mrs. V. A. Bell.

Roman Catholic.

Diocese of Omaha—Rt. Rev. Jeremiah J. Harty, Bishop; Rt. Rev. Monsignor Colaneri, V. G.

St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 705 North Fortieth—Rev. D. P. Harrington, Rev. Wm. Fitzgerald, Rev. J. Timothy and Rev. Hugh Gately.

Church of the Assumption, 5440 South Twenty-second—Rev. James Chundalak.

Holy Angels, Twenty-eighth and Fowler—Rev. P. A. Flannagan.

Sacred Heart, Twenty-second and Binney—Rev. P. J. Judge, Rev. C. Collins.

Holy Family, 917 North Eighteenth—Rev. S. L. Dowd, Rev. P. J. Moran.

St. Agnes', 2211 Q Street—Rev. Jas. Aherne, Rev. John Zaplotnik.

Immaculate Conception, Twenty-fourth and Bancroft—Rev. Theobald Kalampa.

St. Bridget's, Twenty-sixth and F—Rev. T. O'Callahan, Rev. Wm. Borer, Rev. D. Feahon.

St. Francis', 4501 South Thirty-second—Rev. Michael Gluba.

St. John's, 2506 California—Rev. M. M. Brongeeest.

St. Anthony's (Lithuanian) Thirty-second and S—Rev. George F. Jonaitis.

St. Joseph's (German), 1730 South Seventeenth—Rev. Pacificus Kohnen.

- St. Mary Magdalen (German), Nineteenth and Dodge—Rev. Bernard Sinne.
- St. Mary's, Thirty-sixth and O—Rev. Charles Mugan, Rev. John Hallian.
- St. Patrick's, Fourteenth and Castellar—Rev. Peter Gannon, Rev. Edw. Flannigan.
- St. Peter's, Twenty-eighth and Leavenworth—Rev. J. F. McCarthy, Rev. D. P. Neligan, Rev. Patrick Kelley.
- St. Philomena's, Tenth and William—Rev. J. W. Stenson, Rev. Michael Stagno.
- St. Savior, 1470 South Thirteenth—Rev. Elias Abboud.
- St. Wenceslaus', 1432 South Twelfth—Rev. John Vranek.

OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Omaha Public Library had its beginning in 1871, and was located on the third floor of the old L. B. Williams dry goods store, Fifteenth and Douglas Streets, where now stands the Union Pacific headquarters. Its first board consisted of Edgar Snyder, Albert Henry and Nathan Swartzlander. A Miss Sears was its first librarian, and a small sum was charged each patron, the city paying the running expenses. In 1885 it was moved to the Faleoner building, 1505 Douglas Street, where it remained for three years. In 1888 it again moved to the Paxton Block, Sixteenth and Farnam, where it remained until 1893, when it moved to its present spacious quarters, a three story and basement building erected on a full corner lot donated by Byron Reed on the southeast corner of Eighteenth and Harney Streets, built and owned by the city. On entering the new quarters Byron Reed bequeathed to the library his own extensive library and his collections of curios and coins, one of the most valuable collections of rare coins to be found in the United States. The city bought the adjoining lot, giving it a greater amount of needed space. The library at present contains 94,000 volumes, and is one of the best kept and managed of any in the United States. The librarians who have served in my time are Miss Allen and the present one, Miss Edith Tabot, under whose efficient management the library has attained a wide reputation.

OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL.

The building and grounds of the High School have for me cherished memories. The entrancees that yet lead to it are the ones over which my wife traveled in her girlhood days while attending that school; the ones which my daughter trod, and which my son, "Chuck," is now treading. In the secluded corners of the old building, as well as its numerous steps, I was wont to spend many a pleasant summer evening in the early '80s. Knowing the dark condition of the grounds at night, one of

the first resolutions that I introduced while in the city council provided for electric lights for the grounds. The present High School cost \$1,500,000, wings being added to the old one until there was room enough without it, and it was torn down. The old High School was formerly the State Capitol in the territorial days of Nebraska. The new school and grounds are among the finest in the United States. There are 81 teachers and a daily average of about 2,000 pupils. The present management is in charge of the following very efficient staff: J. G. Masters, principal; Joseph Woolery, first vice-president; E. E. McWilliams, second vice-president.

OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL OF COMMERCE.

The establishment of a practical business course in the Central High School proved so successful that it became necessary to make more adequate provisions to care for this popular line of work, and the Omaha High School of Commerce was started in September of 1912, amid a clamor of discord that is always present when a new plan is started; but the feeling of doubt soon disappeared, for the establishing of this school is one of the most praiseworthy acts in the history of the Board of Education of this city, and much credit must be given to Dr. Holovtchiner for his efforts in starting such a school, as it enables parents of moderate means to secure for their children a business education without additional expense. There are about 1,000 pupils enrolled at present. In addition to thorough training in such branches as business, English, shorthand and typewriting, bookkeeping, rapid calculation, commerce and industry, penmanship, advertising salesmanship, etc., the pupils are learning to operate the most modern office machinery—the multigraph, mimeograph, adding machines, filing devices, etc. The college is under the able management of Karl F. Adams, formerly of Springfield, Mass., as principal.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

Creighton University.

The Creighton University, founded in 1878, takes its name from Edward Creighton, one of the pioneers of the west, who died intestate on November 5, 1874, leaving his wife, Mary Lucretia Creighton, his sole heir. Though free to use her fortune as she pleased, she determined to carry out the oft expressed intention of her late husband to found a free college for boys, and in her will, dated September 23, 1875, she bequeathed \$100,000 for this purpose "as a memorial of my late husband." Mrs. Creighton died January 23, 1876. Count John A. Creighton, brother of Edward, was one of the executors of the will. In turn the

Count became its largest benefactor, leaving it on his death, which occurred February 7, 1907, with a substantial endowment and a plant comprising eight large buildings, constructed for educational purposes. The University, which was the outgrowth of the College, now includes a Preparatory Course, as well as Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Law, Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. Owing to the generosity of the Creightons, tuition is free in the preparatory course and in the College of Arts; the charges are moderate in the professional schools. The University's enrollment in 1915, including the summer session, was 1,198. Under the terms of the foundation, the preparatory course and College of Arts are open to men only, but the professional schools are co-educational. While the control of the University is vested in the Jesuits, one of the teaching orders of the Catholic Church, no distinction is made as to creed or race in any of the departments. The present officers are Rev. Francis McMenamy, president; Rev. Wm. P. Whelan, secretary; Rev. Thomas Livingston, treasurer.

University of Nebraska.

The University was located in Omaha at Forty-second Street and Dewey Avenue, about 1910. Those in charge are: Dr. Irving Cutter, dean; Dr. Oscar Schultz, pathology; Dr. A. A. Johnson, clinical pathology; Dr. C. W. Poynter, anatomy; Dr. A. E. Guenther, physiology; Dr. Willard, histology and embryology.

University of Omaha.

The University of Omaha is located at 3612 North Twenty-fourth Street in the old Redick home, and several additional buildings, which have been erected on the property since it was started here in 1910. Rev. Daniel Jenkins is president.

Miscellaneous.

Boyles' College, Eighteenth and Harney—Horace Boyles, president and treasurer.

Mt. St. Mary's Seminary—Sisters of Mercy, Fifteenth and Castellar Streets.

St. Berchman's Academy—Sisters of Mercy, Twenty-seventh and St. Mary's Avenue.

Sacred Heart Convent—Madams, 36th and Burt Streets.

Sacred Heart High School—Dominican Sisters, Twenty-second and Binney Streets.

Presbyterian Theological Seminary—Kountze Place.

Brownell Hall—Tenth and Worthington Streets.

School for the Deaf—Forty-fifth and Boulevard.

OUR WATERWORKS.

In June, 1880, the matter of securing for this city a water plant was considered, by the introduction in the city council of an ordinance providing for the erection of such a plant. The bone of contention before the passage of the ordinance lay in the mode of pressure to be used. A company which felt sure of securing the franchise sought to have the ordinance framed so as to construct a plant on what they termed the "Holley System," or direct pressure. This system was vigorously fought by Edward Rosewater, editor of the Bee, to whom credit must be given for the defeat of that provision of the ordinance, which to this day is conceded to have proven the wisdom of his foresight. The franchise was given to a company who designated themselves as the Omaha Water Works Company, with S. E. Locke as president, and a number of Omaha men as stockholders. As early as 1890 the stock held by local men was bought by an eastern syndicate, with Alonzo B. Hunt of this city as superintendent and general manager (both financially and politically). In the early '90s the plant went into the hands of a receiver and after its reorganization was known as the American Water Company, with A. B. Hunt undisturbed. In 1900 an agitation arose for municipal ownership of the plant and soon assumed a proportion that challenged the attention of the legislature, then in session, which gave and granted the city of Omaha the right to purchase the plant. An election was called and a bond proposition of \$3,000,000 was submitted for that purpose, which met the approval of the voters.

The water company refused to sell at that price and no further steps were taken in the matter of the purchase until the convening of the next session of the legislation, in 1903, when R. Beecher Howell, a member of the senate from Douglas county, secured an amendment to the city charter providing for the appointment of three men to make an appraisement of the plant. The city, under this provision, was to choose one of the appraisers, the water company one, and the two to select a third, all of which was done. Two of the appraisers entered into a combine and the city was helpless when an appraisement of over \$5,000,000 was returned, which report the city council promptly refused to concur in. This refusal on the part of the city resulted in instituting legal proceedings in the federal courts, which was finally determined by the United States Supreme Court in a verdict against the city, which judgment and costs amounted to over \$6,000,000. In 1912 a bond proposition of \$7,000,000 was submitted to the people for the purpose of paying this judgment and costs, which proposition was carried. In July of that year the Water Board assumed the entire control of the plant and Omaha became the owner of its own water works.

In my judgment the people of Omaha paid too dearly for their whistle, as the plant was never worth more than \$3,000,000 at any time, and more especially after the number of years that had elapsed from the time of the offer and the tender of the \$3,000,000 until the final termination of the litigation. The property, having been run down and neglected, was very much deteriorated and the people of Omaha were practically swindled out of \$4,000,000 through the passage of the law denying the city council the right to reject as well as accept the report of the appraisers—this, coupled with the insane desire formed through the deception practiced upon the people in portraying the benefits to be derived through municipal ownership. As a consequence we have an additional debt heaped upon the heads of taxpayers of \$7,000,000 and interest, with water rent no cheaper than was furnished by the privately owned concern, notwithstanding the beautiful array of figures which by a system of ledgerdmain we are led to believe that we are getting our water at a 100 per cent reduction. Speaking from my own personal experience, I can truthfully say that I paid less for water under the privately owned system than under that of municipal ownership.

And yet we hear the hue and cry raised by some of our daily papers that the city should own the gas works, the electric light plant and the street railway. In this cry they are joined by designing politicians, with the view and purpose of creating for themselves and their friends fat berths and an impregnable political fort.

PARKS AND BOULEVARDS.

In 1897 there were but two public parks in the city of Omaha—Jefferson Square and Hanscom Park. Jefferson Square Park was donated to the city at the time the city was incorporated. It embraces one city block, bounded on the north by Cass Street, south by Chicago Street, east by Fifteenth Street and west by Sixteenth Street.

Hanscom Park was donated to the city in the early '70s by A. J. Hanscom and James G. Megeath—there being no provision made by law for the keep and maintenance of parks or the purchase of lands for such purposes until the session of the legislature of 1887; prior to that time there was no effort made to beautify our two parks. The city hired a park keeper at Hanscom, who was paid a meager salary in addition to free house rent; the only ornaments worthy of note in the park up to 1890 were two cadaverous bald eagles, disgustingly devouring raw meats. On the east entrance to this park was an arch sign which read, "Nature Designs and Art Improves;" this old adage no doubt has been read by many who visited that park in the early '80s. If nature in its crude form ever needed the touch of art that park certainly did. Thirty years have worked wonders there

with its now grand pavilion, beautiful winding driveways, flower gardens and lake.

There are nineteen parks in Greater Omaha today, with an acreage of dry land of 917 acres and 217 acres under water. The principal ones are Hanscom, Elmwood, Miller, Riverview, Kountze, Bemis, Curtis and Fontenelle.

Omaha has thirty-five miles of boulevards, well kept and well devised, traveling in directions which enable one to gain a magnificent view of Omaha as well as western Iowa and the winding stream of the Missouri River and the Missouri Valley.

At first our parks and boulevards were under the supervision of a Park Board, which board for a time was appointed by the judges of the District Court of this judicial district. This was later changed, the appointive power being vested in the mayor. In 1910, the city having adopted the commission form of government, this department came under the management of one of the commissioners, the department of Parks and Boulevards, which department since its creation has been and is yet under the efficient management of Joseph Hummel.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

MAYORS OF OMAHA FROM 1879 TO 1917.**Champion S. Chase.**

Champion S. Chase was mayor of Omaha when I came to Omaha, January 15, 1880. The city was run on a free and easy basis, saloons were numerous and never closed. Government license was all that was required, and regulation was unheard of. Gambling was wide open, and the resorts for such purposes were numerous and unbridled, it being the usual custom to have a "spieler" in front of each gambling joint.

Cheap, rough and tough theaters were numerous and limitless as to conduct; one in particular I recall was the old St. Elmo, located at 112-14 South Twelfth Street and run by Jack Nugent. It was no unusual thing to hear of a man being murdered there every week. This continued until the Omaha Herald and Omaha Bee took the matter in hand and began a crusade against the place and against the mayor, resulting in the closing of the theater.

This was but a sample of the many evils that went unchecked during Mayor Chase's first administration when it ended in May, 1881. This was what the people at that time wanted, and Mayor Chase let them enjoy it.

James E. Boyd.

James E. Boyd was elected mayor of Omaha in May, 1881, defeating I. S. Hascall. On Mayor Boyd's entry into office much was expected of him. The Slocumb law had been enacted by the legislature of that year. The brewers and saloon keepers sought to ignore the law and looked to Mayor Boyd to refuse to enforce it. In this they were disappointed, as the mayor vigorously enforced the law, and for some time became very unpopular. His enforcement of the law soon proved his good judgment, as the malcontents had cooled off and lived up to a law that proved the most satisfactory of any ever enacted in the regulation of the liquor traffic. As previously stated in this work, Mayor Boyd was the first to inaugurate a system of public improvements in Omaha, such as grading, sewerage and paving. In fact, his administration was a purely business one. The moral standard of the city was elevated to a remarkable degree, and he would have retired from his first term a popular man were it not for his act in calling out the state militia in suppressing the famous "dump strike."

Champion S. Chase.

In the spring of 1883, Champion S. Chase was again elected mayor of Omaha.

The city having enjoyed a clean administration for two years under Mayor Boyd, the public was in no humor to tolerate lawlessness, though electing Chase over Judge James W. Savage by the small majority of 151 votes, Judge Savage being the law and order candidate.

The city had begun to take on airs by this time and the press and public vied with each other in an effort to maintain law, order and decency, thereby proceeded to curb and restrain those who sought to pursue their old antie capers as enjoyed under Mayor Chase's first administration.

Mayor Chase was unfortunate in his selection of city marshal, having selected a man for that position by the name of Guttery, a machinist at the Union Pacific shops.

This man, shortly after his appointment, began to collect the fines from the inmates of houses of prostitution, failing to make return of the money to the city treasurer. An investigation was had, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of Mr. Guttery and his serving three years in the state penitentiary. The outgrowth of this investigation, which was bitterly carried on and vigorously prosecuted by the then county attorney, Park Godwin, resulted in the impeachment of Mayor Chase and, while not actually removed by the city council, he never sought to perform the duties of the office during the balance of his term, which was about one year. The president of the city council, P. F. Murphy, acted as mayor. Mayor Chase was afterward appointed collector of customs for this part in 1898 and died about 1899.

P. F. Murphy, Acting Mayor.

Patrick F. Murphy in May, 1884, and by reason of the removal of Mayor Chase, was by the city council declared and recognized as acting mayor during the balance of Mayor Chase's unexpired term.

Mayor Murphy conducted the affairs of the office to the satisfaction of the people, there being little or no friction between himself and the city council, and no loud protest on the part of the people concerning the moral status of the city.

He was nominated by the republican party as their candidate for mayor in the spring of 1885, but was defeated by James E. Boyd after one of the most bitter and acrimonious elections ever held in Omaha, and by a majority of 51 votes, claimed by many to have been secured by fraud.

A more complete history of Mr. Murphy's life will be seen in these Recollections, for the year 1885.

William J. Broatch.

William J. Broatch was elected mayor of Omaha April 1887, having defeated Joseph Garneau, the democratic nominee.

This was Mr. Broatch's first term, he succeeding himself, however, in November, 1895. During this (his first) term he devoted himself to the building up of a political machine—one that outstripped Tammany Hall in its palmyest days.

His every acts and movements had in them a political significance, which tended at all times and under all circumstances to foster, nourish and mature his political plans. From his city attorney down to the street cleaner, none dared breathe the air of independence or give vent to an expression that was derogatory to his mighty machine or his political ambition. All had to have a permit from him to live, and a license to breathe the free air of heaven and enjoy the sunshine. How this mighty chief failed of renomination is fully set forth in these Recollections under the heading of events of 1889.

Richard C. Cushing.

Richard C. Cushing was elected mayor of Omaha December, 1889, taking his seat on January 1, 1890.

He was nominated by the democratic party without his knowledge and while out of the city, and knew nothing of his election until a few days before taking office.

He defeated George W. Lininger, the republican nominee and the selection of Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, after one of the most remarkable and bitter fights ever experienced in the political history of this city, the details of which appear in these Recollections in the record of events of 1889.

Mr. Cushing, or Mayor Cushing, having defeated Mr. Rosewater's choice, he became a target for his virulent and merciless attacks, and without cause or provocation.

A council which was in accord with his policies and which constituted three-fourths of that body, came in for a like share of abuse from Mr. Rosewater, as is more fully stated in these Recollections in the record of events of 1890-1.

Mr. Cushing was a business man and conducted the public's business as he would conduct his own private affairs, never permitting politics to enter into any duty that pertained to the welfare of the city of Omaha. He was no politician and while he was a democrat, yet his appointments were equally divided between democrats and republicans. Fitness for office was the sole requirement of the applicant.

He knew nothing and cared less about the political game, yet he made a record for doing things that has never been equalled in the history of Omaha, his administration being the only one so far in Omaha's history where a retiring administration left a surplus in every fund. See Recollections of 1890-1 of this book.

Perhaps I may be accused by some as being partial to Mr. Cushing and boastful of his administration for the reason that I was a member of the city council during the two years of his administration. To those I would appeal to the records, which is always the best evidence.

Mr. Cushing left Omaha in 1906, moving to Los Angeles, California, where he died in 1912.

George P. Bemis.

George P. Bemis was elected to his first term as mayor of Omaha December, 1891, taking his seat January 3, 1892.

Mr. Bemis was taken from the archives, from which he was resurrected by Edward Rosewater. His only claim to the office lay in the fact that he was a nephew of George Francis Train, he of visionary fame.

How his nomination was brought about may be found in these Recollections in noting the events of 1891.

Mr. Bemis served two terms, having succeeded himself in 1894.

For the purposes of signing all warrants and public documents he was apparently alive; aside from that he breathed only with the consent of Edward Rosewater and W. J. Connell.

William J. Broatch.

On January 1, 1906, W. J. Broatch was again seated as mayor of Omaha for the second time, defeating Charles H. Brown.

The army of office seekers who had been shut out for four years under the Bemis-Rosewater regime rallied to their old boss in the primary and put him "over," and were now ready to accept the loaves and fishes which the old Tammany boss dished out as was his custom in his halcyon days.

Mr. Broatch in his second term had evidently gained wisdom by past experience, as his conduct and general demeanor was a striking contrast to that of his first term. This was evidenced by the fact that he sought to avoid entangling alliances and political dictation. By so doing he succeeded in making for himself a creditable record during that term.

Frank E. Moores.

The legislature of 1897 having changed the date of the city election from the usual time in December to that of April, cut short Mayor Broatch's term nine months.

On April 15, 1897, the election was held and Frank E. Moores was elected mayor for the first time, having defeated Ed. E. Howell, for whose benefit the charter was changed, and by his own efforts, he being then a member of the state senate. In addition to the change of time of holding city elections, the term was extended from two years to three.

Mayor Moores did not get peaceable possession of the office, as there was a question as to his eligibility to hold the office, the contention being that while clerk of the District Court he had failed to turn over to his successor in office certain moneys claimed to be due from him paid by litigants. This claim was disputed by Mr. Moores, but Mr. Broatch refused to vacate the office of mayor while the matter was in dispute. However, Mayor-elect Moores gained possession of the office during the night prior to his installation and, having been in possession, the burden of a contest fell upon Mr. Broatch, who after considerable litigation, was defeated, and Mayor Moores was left undisturbed, serving out his term of three years.

Frank E. Moores.

At the spring primary of 1900 Frank E. Moores was again a candidate for the nomination for mayor, having as his opponent W. W. Bingham, the then president of the city council.

This primary was hard fought, was bitter and unrelenting, resulting in a tie vote in the convention, with the Ninth ward on "the fence," the outcome of which was that Moores' men outgeneraled the Bingham men by giving the nomination for city treasurer to Gus Henning, one of the delegates from the Ninth ward, thus securing the votes from that ward and thereby the nomination of Moores for mayor.

Mr. Moores had as his opponent at the election W. S. Poppleton, a democrat, a young lawyer, a native son of Omaha, a bright, clean young man (unfortunately too clean). He was defeated by Mayor Moores at the election by a majority of 1,000.

Mr. Moores took his seat for the second time on May 20, 1900, serving out his three years.

Frank E. Moores.

At the primary in the spring of 1903, Mayor Moores was a candidate to succeed himself, having as his opponent E. A. Benson. This primary proved no less bitter and unrelenting than

that of 1900, presenting in many respects the same conditions as that of 1900, there being an equal number of delegates elected from the various wards for each of the two candidates.

The convention was held in Washinton Hall. After some two hours of wrangling the Moores faction elected Robert Cowell (now on the school board) as chairman of the convention. The Benson faction elected C. W. DeLamatre (an attorney) as their chairman. Then pandemonium reigned supreme; cat calls, crimination and recrimination furnished amusement for the spectators.

In this connection I am free to say that I have never seen a human being display greater nerve or maintain a cooler head under like circumstances than did Robert Cowell, the Moores' chairman of that convention.

It appeared that the Moores followers had elected one delegate in the Eighth ward by a majority of one vote. His name, I believe, was Rasmussen. This delegate did not show up at the convention. It was claimed by the Moores faction that he had been spirited away by the Benson crowd. However, in the organization of the convention, the Moores element secured a Benson delegate from the Second ward in the person of one Mr. Haarman, thereby securing one majority for the purpose of organization.

When the roll call for nominations was made the Second ward cast its solid vote for Frank E. Moores. Haarman made an effort to rise for the purpose of voting for Mr. Benson. He was grabbed by the throat by one Sam Morris and forced down into his seat. The roll call showed that Frank E. Moores received a majority of one vote over Mr. Benson, and the chair declared Mr. Moores the nominee of the convention, whereupon the Benson delegates and followers left the convention hall and proceeded to the Millard Hotel, where they nominated Benson for mayor and all the other candidates nominated by the Moores convention with the exception of Mr. Moores. Mr. Benson's name, however, did not appear on the official ballot as the republican nominee, but that of a citizens' ticket.

The democrats in their convention at the Turner Hall, Eighteenth and Harney Streets, a few days after the republican convention nominated Ed. E. Howell for mayor.

At the election Mayor Moores was elected by 800 plurality, taking his seat for the third time a few days after his election. His health having failed, he was absent from his office the greater part of one year.

He did not live to serve out his entire term, dying a short time before the expiration of his term, February, 1906. He was

succeeded by Harry Zimman, then president of the city council, who served out the balance of Mayor Moores' unexpired term as acting mayor.

Mayor Moores was a much abused man and unjustly so. Few men knew him better than I, having known him intimately for more than a quarter of a century prior to his death. During that time I had occasion to know of the many acts of charity and kindness performed by him. He was a man with a big heart and an open pocketbook, ever ready and willing to give a helping hand to the deserving, and without show or display on his part.

Frank E. Moores was a loyal friend and a bitter enemy; the fire of his loyalty was as intensely hot as the other was icy cold.

Mayor Moores made a good record as mayor. Not a dollar of the public funds were unjustly squandered or extravagantly expended, and his remarkable record in handling the affairs of the city during the Trans-Mississippi Exposition will never be equalled by any other mayor of Omaha, as possibly the opportunity will never be given to another mayor to handle such a large body of people and of such a mixed character.

Mayor Moores was buried in Prospect Hill cemetery, where I frequently call to pay my respects to his mortal remains. May he rest in peace, as he had little of it while in public life.

Harry B. Zimman, Acting Mayor.

Harry B. Zimman filled out the unexpired term of Mayor Moores and discharged the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the general public, and with such credit to himself that his term will ever remain a living monument to his memory.

James C. Dahlman.

James C. Dahlman was elected mayor of Omaha for the first time April 20, 1906, and for three consecutive terms thereafter, and at this writing is mayor of Omaha, his term expiring May, 1918.

James C. Dahlman was born in Dewitt County, Texas, December 15, 1856, and came to Nebraska in 1878; was engaged in handling horses and cattle in his boyhood days in Texas. On arriving in Nebraska he worked as a cowboy for three years on one of the big ranches in western Nebraska, was shortly afterwards made foreman—trailing cattle from Indian Territory and as far west as Oregon.

He was later appointed branding inspector for the Wyoming Stock Association, located at Valentine, Nebraska, which at that time was the terminus of the railroad. When Dawes County was

organized he was elected sheriff three consecutive terms, and mayor of Chadron for two consecutive terms; was a member of the railway commission of Nebraska from 1896 to 1897; was chairman of the democratic state central committee four years; on the democratic national committee for eight years; was engaged in the commission business at South Omaha for the first five years after moving to Omaha or until his election as mayor.

Mr. Dahlman was comparatively unknown in Omaha when first filing for the office of mayor. For that reason his aspirations were at first treated as a joke, but, having had no opposition, he was as a matter of course nominated.

He had for his opponent E. A. Benson, who secured the republican nomination against W. J. Broatch and Gus Henning at the primary on what was supposed to have been a reform movement. As the campaign progressed this unknown and supposed joker in the pack proved himself one of the finest campaigners that ever ran for office in this city. So rapidly had he gained in popularity that the average hall became too small to hold his audiences and was forced in the last days of his campaign to rent theaters to accommodate the multitude.

The election being held, he defeated his opponent by 2,900 votes, and carried the entire democratic ticket with him with the exception of Harry Zimman for the city council.

Mr. Dahlman, having creditably and satisfactorily served out his first term of three years, was again a candidate to succeed himself. He again secured the nomination, having as his opponent at the primary Edward E. Berryman. His opponent at the election was John P. Breen, an attorney, who secured the republican nomination.

At this election Mr. Dahlman made his second whirlwind campaign, defeating his opponent by about 3,000 votes, thus for the second time defeating the candidates of the so-called "Law and Order League."

Mayor Dahlman having served his second term to the satisfaction of the general public, he again became a candidate to succeed himself. The city, having, by act of the legislature, adopted the commission form of government, and on a non-partisan basis, Mr. Dahlman was nominated as one of the commissioners, but not without one of the hardest fights of his life.

The so-called better element had selected from among the nominees seven men, placing them on what they termed a "Citizens Ticket." The "Peoples Ticket" or more properly called "The Dahlman Ticket," was composed of the seven discards, or those men classed as undesirables, the result being that at the election every man on the "Peoples," or "Dahlman Ticket," was elected by large majorities, and served for three years as such commis-

sioners, after selecting and electing Mr. Dahlman as mayor, thus making his third term as such.

Having served one term under the commission form of government and three terms as mayor, Mr. Dahlman was a candidate to succeed himself at the primary in April, 1915.

At that primary the Omaha Daily News selected seven men for commissioners; as in the previous primary election, fourteen had to be nominated. The Dahlman ticket at the primary was made up of six of the holdovers, and a new man for the seventh place.

At the primary the seven on the Dahlman ticket were nominated and a scattering few on the News' ticket. The News then selected six from the other seven nominees, framed and presented a ticket of seven men, taking up one of the Dahlman men.

At the election Mr. Dahlman and four others on his ticket were re-elected, the News having pulled through but two of its candidates, one of which was supported by the World-Herald and the other by the Bee.

On the organization of the council, or the commissioners, Mr. Dahlman was selected and elected by the body as mayor, and by a unanimous vote.

It is very evident from this brief biography of Mr. Dahlman that there must be something unusual in the makeup of this man that has made him so popular, and that has kept and maintained his popularity, for no ordinary man could have maintained it as long as he has, more particularly in public life.

A man that has run for office nearly a score of times and never having suffered but one defeat (when he ran for governor of this state a few years ago); yet few men running for office were ever more brutally assailed and vilified than he.

Having been chief executive of this city for four consecutive terms, justly entitles him to the credit and honor of being the most popular man Omaha has ever had. In this connection I will state that to Miss Nellie C. Malone, his efficient secretary, is due much of this credit.

Those who have had no dealings with him will naturally put the query, "Why his popularity?" This question, I think I am in good position to answer, differing as I do from him in religion and politics, not related to him by marriage or otherwise, never having enjoyed an office at his hands, never having sought or been tendered one by or through him, nor ever expecting any.

Now as to why he is popular:

Because he is honest, and that no one living or dead could, can or ever did deny. Because he is broad-minded and free from

the evil of bigotry or fanaticism, a hater of sham reformers and dreamy imbeciles. Because he is loyal to his family, his friends, his country and his God—traits that constitute a true American. Because his heart and hand go out in response to calls and demands of the poor and oppressed, the widow and the orphan, and so long as a dollar jingles in his pocket, the one with a hard luck story can have all of it but carfare. Because he has protected the taxpayer against the grafter, the trickster and the oily-tongued confidence men who seek to make an inroad upon the city treasury. Because his administration has never been even tainted with the breath of scandal.

With these noble traits of manhood, of which there is no denying he possesses, is it any wonder that he is popular, is it any wonder that the attacks made upon him by designing persons have been denied and repudiated by the vote of the people as expressed at the ballot box time and again, and no doubt will be repeatedly expressed so long as James C. Dahlman lives and asks for the suffrage of the people of Omaha.

Long may he live, and may his shadow never grow less, is the wish of a big majority of the people of Omaha; and were I to drink to him a toast, my sentiments would be those expressed by Lord Byron in his toast to Tom Moore:

“Were there but one drop in the well
As I stood upon the brink,
Ere my fainting spirit fell
’Tis to the Jim Dahlman I would drink.”

CHAPTER XL.

Members of the City Council; Commissioners; Presidents of the Council; also City Clerks and Deputies who have served Omaha from 1879 to 1917.

1880.

Mayor—Champion S. Chase.

President of Council—James E. Boyd.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Charles Kaufman, E. Roddis.

Second Ward—George Labaugh, Charles W. Sherman.

Third Ward—Thomas Blackmore, William H. Kent.

Fourth Ward—Henry Hornberger, John D. Jones.

Fifth Ward—Levi J. Kennard, Thomas H. Dailey.

Sixth Ward—O. G. Dodge, James Stephenson, James E. Boyd.

City Clerk—Truman Buck; resigned April 20, 1880, and on the same date James F. McCartney was elected in his place.

No Deputy City Clerk.

1881.

Mayor—James E. Boyd.

President of Council—Thomas H. Dailey.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Alexander McGavick. Fourth—M. Dunham.

Second—M. A. McNamara. Fifth—Thomas Dailey.

Third—Henry Hornberger. Sixth—W. J. Barker.

Councilmen at Large—

Richard O'Keefe

Fred Dellone

Samuel Hessman

J. O. Corby

Charles Kaufman

Homer Steel

City Clerk—J. J. L. C. Jewett.

No Deputy City Clerk.

1882.

Mayor—James E. Boyd.

President of Council—Homer Stull.

Members of Council—

First Ward—C. C. Thrane.

Second—John F. Behm.

Third—D. L. McGuckin.

Fourth—M. Dunham.

Fifth—Ed. Leeder.

Sixth—W. J. Baker.

City Clerk—J. J. L. C. Jewett. No Deputy City Clerk.

1883.

Mayor—Champion S. Chase.

President of Council—W. J. Baker.

Members of Council—

First Ward—C. C. Thrane.

Fourth—M. Dunham.

Second—John F. Behm.

Fifth—Ed. Leeder.

Third—D. L. McGuckin.

Sixth—W. J. Baker.

Councilmen at Large—

P. F. Murphy

I. S. Hascall

Charles Kaufman

William Anderson

C. A. Woodworth

J. B. Redfield

City Clerk—J. J. L. C. Jewett. No Deputy.

1884.

Mayor—Champion S. Chase.

President of Council—P. F. Murphy.

Members of Council—

First Ward—C. C. Thrane.

Fourth—Will F. Bechtel.

Second—John F. Behm.

Fifth—Ed. Leeder.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Sixth—John B. Furay.

City Clerk—J. J. L. C. Jewett. No Deputy.

Mayor Chase was removed from office June 30, 1884, and P. F. Murphy, president of council, acted as mayor for the rest of the term.

1885.

Mayor—James E. Boyd.

President of Council—William F. Bechtel.

Members of Council—

First Ward—C. C. Thrane.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Second—John Behm.

Fifth—Ed. Leeder.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Sixth—John B. Furay.

Councilmen at Large—

Thomas Dailey

Lewis Schroeder

C. F. Goodman

Michael Lee

Chas. S. Goodrich

F. E. Bailey, Sr.

City Clerk—J. B. Southard. No Deputy.

1886.

Mayor—James E. Boyd.

President of Council—William F. Bechtel.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. J. Lawry.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Second—Frank J. Kasper.

Fifth—Chas. D. Cheney.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Sixth—F. W. Manville.

Councilmen at Large—

Thos. Dailey

Michael Lee

C. F. Goodman

Louis Schroeder

Chas. S. Goodrich

F. E. Bailey, Sr.

City Clerk—J. B. Southard. No Deputy.

1887.

Mayor—William J. Broach.

President of Council—William F. Bechtel.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. J. Lowry.

Second—Frank J. Kasper.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Fifth—Chas. Cheney.

Sixth—F. W. Manville.

Seventh—W. H. Alexander.

Eighth—A. M. Kitchen.

Ninth—W. I. Kierstead.

Councilmen at Large—

Isaac S. Hascall

Michael Lee

F. E. Bailey, Sr.

J. M. Counsman

Chas. Van Camp

Adam Snyder

Jeff W. Bedford

John F. Boyd

Leavit Burnham

City Clerk—J. B. Southard. No Deputy.

1888-1889.

Mayor—W. J. Broatch.

President of Council—Michael Lee.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. Lowry.

Second—Frank J. Kasper.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Fourth—Daniel H. Wheeler.

Fifth—Ed. O'Connor.

Sixth—Wm. G. Shriver.

Seventh—C. L. Chaffee.

Eighth—Albert H. Sander.

Ninth—Edgar P. Davis.

Councilmen at Large—

Isaac S. Hascall

Michael Lee

F. E. Bailey, Sr.

Chas. L. Van Camp

J. M. Counsman

Adam Snyder

Jeff W. Bedford

John F. Boyd

Leavit Burnham

City Clerk—J. B. Southard; served in 1888 and 1889; elected by City Council for one year. No Deputy.

1890.

Mayor—R. C. Cushing.

President of Council—C. L. Chaffee.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. J. Lowry.

Second—Frank J. Kasper.

Third—Pat. Ford.

Fourth—Dan H. Wheeler.

Fifth—Ed. O'Connor.

Sixth—Wm. G. Shriver.

Seventh—C. L. Chaffee.

Eighth—A. H. Sander.

Ninth—Edgar P. Davis.

Councilmen at Large—

Wm. Bechtel
 Theo. Olsen
 F. D. Bloomer
 John McLearnie
 B. F. Madsen

Jas. Donnelly, Sr.
 Henry Osthoff
 E. F. Morearty
 F. D. Cooper

City Clerk—John Groves.

Deputy—Harry Counsman.

1891.

Mayor—R. C. Cushing.

President of Council—Thomas Lowry.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. J. Lowry.
 Second—Peter Elsasser.
 Third—Richard Burdish.
 Fourth—Thos. Tuttle.
 Fifth—T. J. Conway.

Sixth—Christian Specht.
 Seventh—C. L. Chaffee.
 Eighth—C. E. Brunner.
 Ninth—Edgar P. Davis.

Councilmen at Large—

Wm. Bechtel
 Theo. Olsen
 F. J. Bloomer
 John McLearnie
 B. F. Madsen

Jas. Donnelly, Sr.
 H. Osthoff
 E. F. Morearty
 F. D. Cooper

City Clerk—John Groves.

Deputy—H. W. Giberson.

1892.

Mayor—George P. Bemis.

President of Council—E. P. Davis.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Thos. Lowry.
 Second—Peter E. Elsasser.
 Third—Richard Burdish.
 Fourth—Thos. Tuttle.
 Fifth—T. J. Conway.

Sixth—Chris Specht.
 Seventh—C. L. Chaffee.
 Eighth—C. E. Brunner.
 Ninth—Edgar P. Davis.

Councilmen at Large—

Peter Bach
 Wm. Bechtel
 Albert Edwards
 Ed. Howell
 H. Jacobsen

Geo. Munroe
 John McLearnie
 Sol Prince
 John Steel

City Clerk—John Groves.

Deputy—U. B. Balcombe.

1893.

Mayor—George P. Bemis.

President of Council—W. F. Bechtel.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac S. Hascall.	Sixth—Chris Specht.
Second—Peter E. Elsasser.	Seventh—C. L. Thomas.
Third—A. B. McAndrews.	Eighth—C. E. Brunner.
Fourth—D. H. W. Wheeler.	Ninth—Churchill Parker.
Fifth—W. A. Saunders.	

Councilmen at Large—

Peter Bach	George Munroe
Wm. Bechtel	John McLearn
A. G. Edwards	Sol Prince
Ed. Newall	John Steele
H. Jacobsen	

City Clerk—John Groves.

Deputy—U. B. Balcombe.

1894.

Mayor—George P. Bemis.

President of Council—Ed. E. Howell.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac Hascall.	Sixth—Chris Specht.
Second—Peter Elsasser.	Seventh—C. L. Thomas.
Third—A. B. McAndrews.	Eighth—C. E. Bruner.
Fourth—D. H. Wheeler.	Ninth—Churchill Parker.
Fifth—W. A. Sanders.	

Councilmen at Large—

Peter Bach	Robt. Holmes
Wm. Bechtel	Ed. E. Howell
Frank Burkley	H. Jacobsen
Albert Cahn	John Lemly
A. J. Edwards	

*Mr. Wakely died August 1, 1894, and J. T. Evans was appointed Clerk to serve until next election.

Deputy—U. B. Balcombe.

1895.

Mayor—George P. Bemis.

President of Council—A. G. Edwards.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Sam I. Gordon.	Sixth—Chas. L. Jaynes.
Second—Antone Kiment.	Seventh—Chas. L. Thomas.
Third—Sol Prince.	Eighth—Cadet Taylor.
Fourth—F. B. Kennard.	Ninth—George Mercer.
Fifth—W. A. Saunders.	

Councilmen at Large—

Peter Bach
Wm. Bechtel
F. J. Burkley
Albert Cahn
A. G. Edwards

Robert Holmes
Ed. E. Howell
H. Jacobsen
John Lemly

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

1896.

Mayor—W. J. Broatch.

President of Council—W. A. Saunders.

Members of Council—

First Ward—I. S. Hascall.
Second—Antone Kiment.
Third—Sol Prince.
Fourth—F. P. Kennard,
Fifth—W. A. Saunders.

Sixth—Chas. Jaynes.
Seventh—C. L. Thomas.
Eighth—Cadet Taylor.
Ninth—George Monroe.

Councilmen at Large—

W. W. Bingham
John Lemly
R. D. Duncan
Louis Burmeister
D. H. Wheeler

D. H. Christie
Carr Axford
James Allen
F. J. Burkley
G. Benewa

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

1897.

Mayor—W. J. Broatch.

President of Council—W. W. Bingham.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Ernest Stuht.
Second—Thos. J. Flynn.
Third—Richard O'Malley.
Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.
Fifth—Alfred J. Lunt.

Sixth—Myron D. Carr.
Seventh—D. T. Mount.
Eighth—Thos. S. Crocker.
Ninth—Geo. W. Mercer.

Councilmen at Large—

W. W. Bingham
Robt. D. Duncan
Louis Burmeister
D. H. Wheeler
D. H. Christie

Carr Axford
James Allen
F. J. Burkley
G. S. Benewa

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

Election April 20, 1897.

Mayor—Frank E. Moores.

President of Council—W. W. Bingham.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Ernest Stuht.

Second—W. W. Bingham.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Fifth—Chas. O. Lobeck.

Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Ninth—Geo. W. Mercer.

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

1898.

Mayor—Frank E. Moores.

President of Council—W. W. Bingham.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Ernest Stuht.

Second—W. W. Bingham.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Ninth—Geo. W. Mercer.

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

1899.

Mayor—Frank E. Moores.

President of Council—W. W. Bingham.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Ernest Stuht.

Second—W. W. Bingham.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—Wm. F. Bechtel.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Seventh—David T. Mount.

Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Ninth—George W. Mercer.

City Clerk—Beecher Higby.

Deputy—George H. Holbrook.

1900.

Mayor—Frank E. Moores.

President of Council—Myron D. Carr.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac Hascall.

Second—Fred H. Hoyer.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—Wm. B. Whitehorn.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Ninth—Simon Trostler.

City Clerk—Wm. H. Holbrook.

Deputy—Frank Bandhaur.

1901.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—Myron D. Carr.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac S. Hascall. Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Second—Fred H. Hoyer. Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Third—H. B. Zimman. Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Fourth—Wm. B. Whitehorn. Ninth—Simon Trostler.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

City Clerk—Wm. H. Elbourne.

Deputy—Frank Bandhaur.

1902.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—Myron D. Carr.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac S. Hascall. Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Second—F. H. Hoyer. Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Third—H. B. Zimman. Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Fourth—Wm. B. Whitehorn. Ninth—Simon Trostler.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

City Clerk—Wm. Elbourne.

Deputy—Frank Bandhaur.

1903.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—Myron D. Carr.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Isaac S. Hascall. Sixth—Myron D. Carr.

Second—F. H. Hoyer. Seventh—D. T. Mount.

Third—H. B. Zimman. Eighth—F. J. Burkley.

Fourth—Wm. B. Whitehorn. Ninth—Simon Trostler.

Fifth—C. O. Lobeck.

City Clerk—Wm. H. Elbourne.

Deputy—Frank Bandhaur.

1904.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—H. B. Zimman.

Members of Council—

First Ward—P. M. Bach. Sixth—E. D. Evans.

Second—F. H. Hoyer. Seventh—R. W. Dyball.

Third—H. B. Zimman. Eighth—P. C. Shroeder.

Fourth—George D. Nicholson. Ninth—C. S. Huntington.

Fifth—D. J. O'Brien.

City Clerk—Wm. H. Elbourne.

Deputy—S. Simonson.

1905.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—H. B. Zimman.

Members of Council—

First Ward—P. M. Bach.

Second—F. H. Hoyer.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—Geo. D. Nicholson.

Fifth—D. J. O'Brien.

City Clerk—Wm. H. Elbourne.

Deputy—S. Simonson.

Sixth—E. D. Evans.

Seventh—R. W. Dyball.

Eighth—P. C. Shroeder.

Ninth—C. S. Huntington.

1906.

Mayor—F. E. Moores.

President of Council—H. B. Zimman.

Members of Council—

First Ward—P. M. Bach.

Second—F. H. Hoyer.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—A. H. Comstock.

Fifth—D. J. O'Brien.

City Clerk—W. H. Elbourne.

Deputy—S. Simonson.

Sixth—E. D. Evans.

Seventh—R. W. Dyball.

Eighth—P. C. Shroeder.

Ninth—C. S. Huntington.

1907.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—L. B. Johnson.

Members of Council—

First Ward—A. Hansen.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan Butler.

Deputy—Tom Daily.

Seventh—Alma Jackson.

Eighth—J. C. Davis.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—P. E. Elsasser.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—J. W. Bedford.

1908.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—L. B. Johnson.

Members of Council—

First Ward—A. Hansen.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan Butler.

Deputy—Thomas H. Dailey.

Seventh—Alma Jackson.

Eighth—J. C. Davis.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—P. E. Elsasser.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—J. W. Bedford.

1909.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—L. B. Johnson.

Members of Council—

First Ward—A. Hansen.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—H. B. Zimman.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan Butler.

Deputy—Thomas H. Dailey.

Seventh—Alma Jackson.

Eighth—J. C. Davis.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—P. E. Elsasser.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—J. W. Bedford.

1910.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—Louis Burmeister.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Louis Berka.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan Butler.

Deputy—Thomas H. Dailey.

Seventh—Fred Schroeder.

Eighth—J. B. Hummel.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—A. C. Kugel.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—Charles Davis.

1911.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—G. F. Brucker.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Louis Berka.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan Butler.

Deputy—Thomas H. Dailey.

Seventh—Fred Schroeder.

Eighth—Joseph Hummel.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—A. C. Kugel.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—Charles Davis.

1912.

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—Louis Berka.

Members of Council—

First Ward—Louis Berka.

Second—Lee Bridges.

Third—Louis Burmeister.

Fourth—L. B. Johnson.

Fifth—G. F. Brucker.

Sixth—W. S. Sheldon.

City Clerk—Dan B. Butler.

Deputy—Thomas H. Dailey.

Seventh—Fred Schroeder.

Eighth—Joseph B. Hummel.

Ninth—Thomas McGovern.

Tenth—A. C. Kugel.

Eleventh—M. F. Funkhauser.

Twelfth—Charles Davis.

1913.**Beginning of Commission Form of Government.**

Mayor—James C. Dahlman.

President of Council—James C. Dahlman.

Apportionment of Departments—

Dan B. Butler, Supt. of Accounts and Finances.

Jos. B. Hummel, Supt. of Parks and Boulevards.

A. C. Kugel, Supt. Dept. Street Cleaning and Maintenance.

John J. Ryder—Supt. Dept. Police, Sanitation and Public Safety.

Chas. H. Withnell—Supt. Dept. Fire Protection, Water Supply.

James C. Dahlman—Supt. Dept. Public Affairs.

Thos. McGovern—Supt. Street Improvements.

City Clerk—Thomas J. Flynn.

Deputy Clerk—H. M. Primeau.

1914.

Same as 1913 with the exception that Mr. Kugel and Mr. Ryder exchanged departments.

City Clerk—Thos. J. Flynn.

Deputy Clerk—H. M. Primeau.

1915.

President of Council—James C. Dahlman.

Commissioners—

Dan Butler—Supt. Dept. Accounts and Finances.

Chas. Withnell, Supt. Fire Protection and Water Supply.

James C. Dahlman, Supt. Dept. Public Affairs.

Jos. Hummel, Supt. Dept. Parks and Boulevards.

W. S. Jardine, Supt. Dept. Public Improvements.

J. C. Drexel, Supt. Street Cleaning and Maintenance.

A. C. Kugel, Supt. Dept. Police, Sanitation and Public Safety.

City Clerk—Thomas J. Flynn.

Deputy Clerk—H. M. Primeau.

CHAPTER XLI.

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT FROM 1879 TO 1916.**James W. Savage.**

Judge Savage served as judge of the District Court from 1879 to 1883.

It was my pleasure and privilege to have known Judge Savage personally and intimately while on the bench and after his retirement, and of him I must say that I never knew a man possessed of more character than he. It made no difference to him what your station; as long as you were an honest man you were welcome to his fatherly advice and a cheerful greeting.

After his retirement from the bench I was instrumental in securing his nomination in 1883 for mayor of Omaha at the hands of a democratic convention. He was defeated at the election by Champion S. Chase by the small majority of 151 votes. He was also defeated in 1883 for supreme judge of this state. He died in 1888 beloved by all. In politics Judge Savage was a democrat.

James W. Neville.

Judge James W. Neville served as judge of the District Court from 1882 to 1888. It was not my pleasure to have known Judge Neville intimately, but I had ample opportunity of noting his career during his long service on the bench, where he served with distinguished honor. He was a man with a good legal mind and of even, judicial temperament, and as a judge endeared himself to all who knew him. The judge, prior to going upon the bench, served one term as United States district attorney for this state. He is still in the land of the living, touching elbows each day with the "old timers" and renewing new acquaintances, all of whom join in wishing him many years of enjoyment on this terrestrial globe.

Eleazer Wakeley.

Judge Eleazer Wakeley served as judge of the District Court from 1882 to 1892. I must say of Judge Wakeley, as I have said of Judge Savage, it was my pleasure to have known him intimately and well, and to know him was but to love him. He was the soul of honor, a lawyer of the old school, who loved his profession and who would prefer death to casting reflection upon it. As a judge he seemed to have been born for the discharge of such duties as devolve upon the position. He was

cool, calm and deliberate, never deviating from a course and conclusion which sprang from mature conviction. He died in 1912 at the ripe old age of 81 years, and dying, went down to that earth from which he sprung—

Wept, honored and sung, with a crowning glory of unsullied honor.

Louis A. Groff.

Louis A. Groff served as judge of the District Court from 1887 to 1890, at which time he resigned, having been appointed by President Harrison to the office of commissioner of the United States land office. Judge Groff was a quiet, unassuming man, and made an excellent judge.

He presided on the criminal bench during the memorable trial of Mrs. Bechler, charged with having on November 20, 1888, shot and killed Mr. King in the corridor of the Paxton Hotel. Mr. King was the son of Mr. King of the clothing firm of Browning-King.

Having served four years as commissioner of the land office, he moved from Omaha to Los Angeles, California, where he now resides.

M. R. Hopewell.

M. R. Hopewell served as judge of the District Court from 1887 to 1895. In appearance the judge would remind one of a retired country gentleman, an affable person, genial and companionable. He made an excellent judge, and after retiring from the bench was elected lieutenant governor of this state. He died in 1913. He resided at Tekamah in Burt County.

George W. Doane.

George W. Doane served as judge of the District Court from 1887 to 1892. Judge Doane, like Wakeley, Savage and Neville, was a pioneer, having resided in the state for close to a half century. He was a very dignified man and carried himself with an air of military discipline. Yet he was one of the most affable of men, easy to approach, shook hands with a warm and genial impulse, ever ready to give counsel and advice to young men. Having met him when I was but a young man, I am in a position to know how generous he was with his advice to young men, as I feel to this day that I owe much to him for the fatherly advice which he so often gave me, and of which today I feel that I am the beneficiary.

Judge Doane made a model judge. He died in 1912. He was one of God's noblemen, and I am sure that in God's book of golden deeds his name is written in large letters.

Joseph R. Clarkson.

Judge Joseph R. Clarkson served as judge of the District Court from the fall of 1889 to January 1, 1892. The Douglas County Bar, having met in mass convention, indorsed him for the vacancy caused by reason of the resignation of Judge Groff.

Having received the bar indorsement, Governor Thayer appointed him to fill out the term until a judge could be elected at the fall election in 1889.

The democratic judicial convention of that year nominated Judge Clarkson (though a republican) and he was elected over Herbert J. Davis, the nominee of the republican party; this after one of the most bitter campaigns ever waged for this office.

Judge Clarkson served out his term and declined to run at the next regular convention. He made a splendid judge and should have remained on the bench.

I have a warm spot in my heart for Judge Clarkson, as it was before him that I was admitted to the bar on January 9, 1890. After his retirement from the bench he again became associated with his old law firm of Clarkson, Congdon & Hunt, and eventually left Omaha. His whereabouts I am unable to say.

Herbert J. Davis.

Herbert J. Davis served as judge of the District Court from 1892 to 1893, after which time he left Omaha and went east. In 1898 he was, by President McKinley, tendered a place in the Philippine Islands as one of the judges of the Court of First Instance. Owing to ill health he declined the position. Judge Davis was an exceptionally bright lawyer and an all 'round genteel gentleman. I had the pleasure of having been defeated by him for the school board in the spring of 1886, yet that never stood in the way of the warm friendship which existed between us during our long acquaintanceship.

Judge Davis was at one time associated with Judge W. W. Keyser as law partner; afterwards with Henry D. Estabrook, now of New York and a candidate for president of the United States subject to action of the republican convention of 1916.

Judge Davis died about 1909.

Frank S. Irvine.

Frank S. Irvine served as judge of the District Court from 1891 to 1893.

Judge Irvine had lived in Nebraska but a short time prior to his having been elected to the bench. He came here from

Ithaca, N. Y. After his retirement from the bench he was appointed one of the commissioners of the Supreme Court of this state, after which time he accepted a position as professor in some department of the Cornell University, which position he was filling when I last heard of him.

W. W. Keysor.

W. W. Keysor served as judge of the District Court from 1892 to 1902.

Judge Keysor, at the time of his election, resided in Nebraska but a short time, but his pleasant disposition and manly conduct soon won for him a warm spot in the hearts of the people of this city and county.

He was a slow, easy-going man, ever ready and willing to cheer and encourage the robust as well as the invalid, and while he made a good record as a judge, I have often thought that he would have made a great and good minister of the Gospel, as he possessed the essential requirements that go to make a model minister.

After his retirement from the bench he moved to St. Louis, Mo., where he accepted a position as a professor in a law college, which position, as I am informed, he still holds.

Cunningham R. Scott.

Cunningham R. Scott served as judge of the District Court from 1892 to 1899.

He was the product of A. P. Aism, and when the air which they polluted became clarified, he ceased to breathe and died it is claimed a natural death in 1911, a lasting example to all bigots.

Charles Ogden.

Charles Ogden served as judge of the District Court from 1892 to 1893, having been appointed by Governor Boyd to fill a vacancy.

Judge Ogden came to Omaha in 1882 from Louisiana, was a staunch democrat and soon became very popular because of his political activity. He made a good, clean record during his term. Judge Ogden was a good lawyer, a graduate of one of the leading colleges of the south, and ranked high as a linguist. After his retirement from the bench he resumed the practice of the law. He died in 1908.

W. C. Walton.

Judge Walton served as judge of the District Court from 1893 to 1895.

Of Judge Walton I knew very little, but from the courteous treatment which he gave to all who had business in his court, I am free to say that he made a very good judge.

During the time he was on the bench he resided at Blair, where, I believe, he still resides.

Edward R. Duffie.

Edward R. Duffie served as judge of the District Court from 1893 to 1896. I was intimately acquainted with Judge Duffie, probably more so than with some of the other judges who served on the bench, he being my neighbor for three years.

I met the judge in 1886, shortly after he came to Nebraska from Iowa, when he formed a partnership with Luther R. Wright, with offices on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and Douglas Streets. This partnership lasted but a short time, when he formed a partnership with Geo. W. Ambrose under the name of Ambrose & Duffie, with offices in the old Union Block, known as the Wabash Corner, Fifteenth and Farnam Streets.

Shortly after his retirement from the bench in 1896, he ran for congress on the democratic ticket, but was defeated by Dave Mercer.

Judge Duffie resumed the practice of law after his retirement from the bench until appointed one of the commissioners of the Supreme Court of this state. While acting in such capacity, he became a candidate for Supreme Judge, but was defeated in the republican state convention by a small majority. After retiring as commissioner he moved to some small town in the western part of this state, where he remained but a short time, moving to Los Angeles, where in 1913 he died.

Judge Duffie made a good judge, and was beloved by all who knew him.

George W. Ambrose.

George W. Ambrose served as judge of the District Court from January, 1894, to January 1, 1895.

Judge Ambrose was one of Omaha's early settlers, and was ranked as a lawyer of unusual ability, who never sought office but was content in the practice of his profession. The short time he spent on the bench was the only office he had ever filled or ever sought.

His entire time on the bench was spent in the equity branch of the court, where he rendered many important decisions in matters involving the title to real estate.

On his retirement from the bench he moved to Chicago in 1897, and shortly thereafter died.

Joseph H. Blair.

Joseph H. Blair served as judge of the District Court from 1894 to 1896. He came to Nebraska about the year 1889, during which time he practiced law until his elevation to the bench.

He was an old foggy, in fact a dreamy old imbecile, who possessed no powers of precision or decision, who secured, as he himself had informed me, his nomination in a republican convention through the influence of the leaders of the A. P. A.'s and for a consideration of \$500. One short term is all he served. He died soon thereafter.

Clinton N. Powell.

Clinton N. Powell served as judge of the District Court from 1896 to 1899.

Prior to his election to the bench he was a law partner of Wm. Gurley, and at the time of his election was attorney for the school board.

He was a quiet, unassuming man, and mingled very little with the public. He made a good judge, and on his retirement moved to the southern part of this state, where about 1908 he died.

Jacob L. Fawcett.

Jacob L. Fawcett served as judge of the District Court from 1896 to 1903.

He was defeated for a third nomination by Judge W. A. Redick, after which he served for a number of years as Supreme Court commissioner of this state. He was in 1910 elected one of the judges of the Supreme Court of this state and is now serving in that capacity, his time expiring January, 1917. He will be a candidate for chief justice of the Supreme Court at the 1916 primary.

Judge Fawcett came to Omaha in 1887 from Galesburg, Illinois, and practiced his profession here until his election to the district bench.

He served with distinction in the Union army during the rebellion. He now resides at Lincoln, Nebraska. He made a good record as district judge.

W. W. Slabaugh.

W. W. Slabaugh served as judge of the District Court from 1896 to 1904.

Prior to his election to the bench he practiced law in Omaha and for some time was a law partner of S. R. Rush, during which time he was appointed deputy county attorney of Douglas County. While serving in that capacity he was elected to the district bench.

Judge Slabaugh discharged the duties of this office without noise, ostentation or notoriety.

On retiring from the bench, and after a period of two years, or in 1895, he was elected county attorney of Douglas County, serving one term, having been defeated by James P. English at the following election in 1897.

As county attorney his administration proved a dismal failure, after which he retired to private life to practice his profession.

Ben S. Baker.

Ben S. Baker served as judge of the District Court from 1896 to 1902, when he resigned to accept the position of United States judge for the territory of New Mexico, which was given him by President Roosevelt and which he occupied for something like two years.

Whether he was removed from this position by the president or whether he tendered his resignation voluntarily, is a matter of dispute, and I am in no position to decide, but feel that he should have the benefit of the doubt, owing to the good record which he made upon the bench of this district, as well as the creditable record which he made during his term as United States district attorney for this state, and that of his record as a member of the legislature from Jefferson County in this state.

Judge Baker is a man that has been much abused and misunderstood. This is due no doubt to the fact that he is a big-hearted man, full of combativeness and an exceptionally bright lawyer, ever ready and willing to lend a helping hand to the justly deserving, broad-gauged in his views and always ready and willing to mingle with the plebeians.

Judge Baker served three years as corporation counsel for the city of Omaha, resigning that position in December, 1914.

He is now engaged in the active practice of the law in this city.

Charles T. Dickenson.

Charles T. Dickenson served as judge of the District Court from 1896 to 1904.

Judge Dickenson during his term of judge resided in Tekamah, Burt County. He should have been retained on the bench, as he was one of the most capable men that I ever knew on the bench. He was accommodating and courteous to all, and no doubt it was his honesty of purpose and his refusal to submit to the dictation of the mighty powers that prevented his renomination to that position. The decision in particular that sealed his judicial doom was the one in which he decided against the garbage contractors of Omaha. It appears that the garbage contractors had an exclusive contract with the city of Omaha to dispose of its garbage and for a period of twenty-five years. This contract was so strictly adhered to by the police that poor men who made a living by hauling garbage were arrested, fined and imprisoned, and no man dared move his own garbage. This matter came up before Judge Dickenson on a writ of habeas corpus testing the constitutionality of the ordinance and the contract.

The judge held that both the ordinance and the contract were unconstitutional and void. This ired the greedy monopolist and Judge Dickenson was marked for defeat, and his defeat for renomination was ably carried out by one of the most astute and unscrupulous politicians that ever gained a foothold on this side of hell.

An appeal was taken in this case to the Supreme Court of the state and Judge Dickenson was sustained.

Judge Dickenson served as city prosecutor of the city of Omaha from May, 1909, to May, 1911, or for three years.

He discharged the duties of that position with an efficiency that was never equalled or perhaps never will be. In fact he dignified the position, this with due respect to others who filled the position before or since. He is now practicing his profession in Omaha.

Irving F. Baxter.

Irving F. Baxter served as judge of the District Court from 1900 to 1903. He resigned from this position to accept the office of United States district attorney for Nebraska, a position tendered him by President Roosevelt.

Judge Baxter, however, served but a short time in the office, as he suddenly separated himself from it. either voluntarily or otherwise, I am unable to say. Suffice it to say that United States Senator Millard, who secured for him the place, was unable to convince the president that Judge Baxter was the man for the place, or that he should be permitted to serve out

his term. The result was that another was immediately appointed as his successor.

In many respects it might be said of Judge Baxter that he was born under a lucky star. While not having been born great, he had greatness thrust upon him.

He came to Omaha, if I remember correctly, about the year 1889 or 1890, with a letter of introduction from United States Senator Hiscock of New York to General Charles F. Mander-son, who secured for him a place in the law firm of Green & Breckenridge of this city.

It was but a short time when he was made attorney for the board of education of this city. He being an apt scholar, he soon learned the intricacies of politics and bloomed out for office, and the first opportunity was by him quickly embraced. It came about in this way: The bar of Douglas County was dissatisfied with the administration of Judge Eller, then county judge, and called a bar meeting for the purpose of making a bar nomination for that office. Charles H. Green was made chairman of the meeting and George A. Day and myself were made tellers. Henry Morrow and Judge Baxter were the candidates. Baxter won by a majority of one.

Judge Baxter, though a republican, secured the democratic nomination and was indorsed by the citizens convention and was elected county judge.

He soon forgot the democratic party and proclaimed himself a full-fledged republican. By so doing, he filled the office for three consecutive terms.

Having behind him all this time the influence and support of the B. & M. Railroad, he experienced no trouble in securing the nomination for district judge, and was sailing with the gale at a rapid pace, when Roosevelt cut his jibboom and he heaved anchor. He is now practicing law in Omaha.

Guy R. C. Read.

Guy R. C. Read served as judge of the District Court from 1903 to January 1, 1904.

Mr. Read was a bar selection, the bar association having met in general mass meeting, selected him, he having no opposition in the meeting.

The governor, acting upon the wisdom of the bar association, appointed him to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Irving Baxter. Judge Read during his term was on the equity bench, and gave universal satisfaction. He is now practicing law in Omaha.

George A. Day.

George A. Day, one of the present judges of the District Court, was appointed by Governor Savage in 1903 to fill a vacancy on the bench, since which time Judge Day has continued to serve by reason of repeated elections.

He was born in Iowa in 1859 and came to Omaha in 1883, shortly afterwards forming a partnership with W. A. Stow, which law firm was known as Stow & Day.

Mr. Stow having died in 1885, the firm name was changed to Day & Day, George A. and Curtis L. Day, brothers. This co-partnership continued until 1895, when George A. was appointed deputy attorney general of this state. In 1901 he was appointed one of the commissioners of the Supreme Court of this state, which position he resigned to accept the appointment to the position which he now holds and will continue to hold, at least until his term expires in January, 1917.

Judge Day comes from a family of lawyers, his father having served for a number of years as chief justice of the state of Iowa, and was such at the time of his death.

He is one of the most accommodating and obliging public officials that I have ever met. He is honest and conscientious, and has long held the respect and good-will of all who know him. He is again a candidate for re-election.

A. C. Troup.

A. C. Troup, one of the present judges of the District Court, began his service on the bench in 1904, and has remained in that position by continuous re-elections.

Prior to his election as district judge, he served as deputy county attorney of Douglas County for two years.

While acting in that capacity he made an enviable record, so much so that he immediately sprang into the limelight of prominence, which won for him with little or no effort on his part the nomination for district judge. How well he has discharged the duties of the office is attested by the fact that he has been repeatedly elected to that position.

Judge Troup was born at Saratoga, N. Y., of Scotch parentage in 1854 and spent his youth in northeastern Ohio, coming to Nebraska in 1873. He studied law at the University of Iowa, where he graduated in 1879. He served one term as a member of the Nebraska legislature in the session of 1885, where he served as chairman of the judiciary committee. He made an excellent record in that session.

He came to Omaha in 1879, where he practiced law until his election to the bench.

He is a candidate to succeed himself at the election in 1916.

E. M. Bartlett.

E. M. Bartlett served as judge of the District Court from 1893 to 1894. He was appointed by the governor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Ben S. Baker.

At the end of his term he sought re-election, but was defeated at the primaries, after which he moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he is now engaged in the practice of law.

Howard Kennedy.

Howard Kennedy served as judge of the District Court from 1904 to 1913, when he resigned to accept an appointment on the board of public institutions of this state, the appointment being made by Governor Moorhead.

Judge Kennedy is an Omaha boy, having been born and raised in Omaha, and the only graduate of the Omaha High School to fill the position of judge of the District Court with one exception, that of Judge W. A. Redick. His family was one of the early settlers of Omaha, and for a number of years his father was connected with the Omaha schools, where in turn the judge's brother, Alfred, was a member of the school board, filling the position at the time of his death in 1915. Howard Kennedy School in Omaha was named after the father of Judge Kennedy. Judge Kennedy made a good, clean record while judge of the District Court and his resignation was much regretted by all who knew him. He is now serving in the capacity to which he was appointed.

A. L. Sutton.

Abraham L. Sutton served as judge of the District Court from 1904 to February, 1915, when he resigned to resume the practice of the law.

Judge Sutton was born in Oregon, Wisconsin, in 1866, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. Coming to Nebraska in 1887 when but a young man, locating on a homestead in Brown County, Nebraska. Whether by reason of a sudden flash of prosperity or adverse climatic conditions, I do not know (but I am inclined to believe the latter) he left Brown County in 1898 and located in South Omaha.

There he began the practice of law, where he encountered the usual struggle of the poor young lawyer and a stranger in

a strange town; yet undismayed he buckled on his armor, confident of his own strong will and his integrity of purpose, and he secured not only clients, but gained the confidence and appreciation of the people of his city.

Judge Sutton prior to his election to the bench, filled by appointment a vacancy on the board of county commissioners of this county. He is a man of unusually good judgment, which qualification he displayed so conspicuously while discharging the duties of the office of district judge, and his big heart was ever ready to hear and relieve the troubles of the widow and the orphan in distress.

To his efforts in a great measure is due the passage of legislation beneficial to both mothers and minors, among which may be cited "the law governing wife abandonment and wife desertion, the juvenile court law, also the mothers' pension act."

The judge was never held in high estimation by the corporations or by lawyers who sought the ways that were dark or the tricks that were vain.

During his term as judge he sought the office of congressman from this district in 1910, having secured the nomination with ease.

At the election he ran some 5,000 votes ahead of his ticket but was defeated by less than 100 votes, James C. Dahlman having carried the county on the democratic ticket by 12,000 majority for governor.

He gained world-wide fame as the trial judge in the famous Pat Crowe kidnaping case, where Crowe was charged with kidnaping the son of the millionaire packer, Edward Cudahy.

In the fall of this year (1915) he filed for the nomination of governor of this state subject to the republican primary of April, 1916.

Willis G. Sears.

Willis G. Sears is one of the present judges of the District Court, commencing his term in 1904 and having been re-elected at each succeeding election thereafter, his term expiring January 1, 1917.

Judge Sears was born in Ohio August 16, 1860; came to Nebraska June 29, 1879, locating at Decatur, Nebraska; was admitted to the bar in 1884 before Judge E. Wakeley. Served two terms in the Nebraska legislature; was speaker of the house in the session of 1901; served nine years as mayor of Tekamah, Nebraska, 1889-1901; served nine years on the board of insanity of Burt County.

To know Judge Sears is to like him, though at first sight and on slight acquaintance he would appear to be a mysterious person; a tall, lean, rawboned man, apparently sullen and gruff, possessing an unusually bright, clear, judicial mind, capable of grasping the most intricate and complicated legal problems; an interesting conversationalist and, on appropriate occasions, one of the most jovial and companionable of men I ever met. Had Judge Sears broken his word he could have been elected United States senator from this state. Judge Sears has made a good record on the bench, having at one time or another filled all of the assigned dockets—law, equity, criminal and juvenile. He is a member of the Masonic Order, the Red Men and Ancient Order of United Workmen. He is a candidate to succeed himself at the election in 1916.

Wm. A. Redick.

William A. Redick served as judge of the District Court from 1904 to 1911, having served two consecutive terms, and having been defeated for renomination in his effort to secure a third term.

In February, 1915, he was appointed judge to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge A. L. Sutton. This appointment he received from Governor John H. Moorhead. He is one of the present judges, his term expiring January 1, 1917.

Judge Redick is a native son of Nebraska, having been born in Omaha in 1859, having received his early education in the Omaha grade schools and the Omaha High School, after which he entered the law office of his father, Judge John L. Redick.

Judge Redick came of an old and honored family of Omaha pioneers, his father, John L. Redick, having settled in Omaha about 1856, where he raised a large and creditable family, of which three were lawyers—William, Charles and Chat. The father of Judge Redick was appointed territorial judge of New Mexico in 1875 by President Grant, during which time the family resided in Denver, Colo. Aside from those few years, in addition to the years 1887-8, when the judge moved to Los Angeles, California, he has resided in Omaha continuously all his life.

The Redick family having grown exceptionally wealthy, there is a mistaken idea on the part of many people that Judge Redick is autocratic and aristocratic.

This is a mistaken idea, and far from the real facts, as after an acquaintanceship of more than thirty years which I have had the pleasure of enjoying, I can most emphatically refute such an impression or imputation. He is on the contrary an affable, genial and companionable gentleman, ever ready with heart and hand to assist the deserving.

His decisions have been logical, fearless and conscientiously arrived at, regardless of his political future, fearing neither prince or pauper, ward boss or corporation. He is a candidate to succeed himself at the 1916 election.

Charles Leslie.

Judge Charles Leslie was elected to the district bench in 1911, and is at present one of the presiding judges thereof, his term expiring January 1, 1917.

Judge Leslie was born in Lafayette County, Wisconsin, September 24, 1867, and came to Omaha in 1893, entering the law office of Jacob L. Fawcett, now on the supreme bench of this state, where he engaged in the practice of law until he entered the office of County Judge Vinsonhaler in the capacity of clerk of the County Court of Douglas County, where he remained for six years. At the end of Judge Vinsonhaler's term as county judge he was elected his successor, which position he filled for six years, from which he was in 1911 elevated to the district bench.

Judge Leslie is a mild mannered, pleasant and unassuming gentleman, who bears lightly all the honors bestowed upon him and never has abused the powers vested in him.

While possibly not as well versed in the law as his associates on the bench, yet he possesses that which often takes the place of legal lore, the gift of common sense properly applied, which in the majority of cases will have attained the ends of justice equally as well. This has been fully illustrated in his case, as he has grown to be one of the most popular judges on the bench.

He is a candidate to succeed himself at the 1916 election.

James P. English.

Judge James P. English is one of the present presiding judges of the District Court, having been appointed to that position by Governor J. H. Moorhead in June, 1913, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Howard Kennedy. At the general election in 1914 he was elected to the full term which ends January, 1917.

He is a candidate to succeed himself at the 1916 election.

Judge English was born in Wisconsin September 12, 1859, and came to Omaha in 1880, after graduating from a law college at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

After his arrival in Omaha he entered the law office of Judge J. M. Woolworth, where he remained until he entered the law firm of Hall & McCullough, which firm was afterward

known as Hall, McCullough & English, with offices in the old Omaha National Bank building. In 1902 he severed his connection with this firm, having been elected county attorney of Douglas county, serving until 1904, when he was defeated for re-election by Judge Slabaugh. In 1906 he was again elected county attorney, serving repeated and consecutive terms to 1912, when he became a private citizen by and through his own consent. He practiced law during that period of time, when he was again called to duty by his appointment to the district judgeship.

Judge English is a brother of Rév. Father English, formerly parish priest of St. Philomena's Cathedral when it was located on Ninth and Howard Streets for a number of years.

He is exceptionally popular with all classes, made a splendid record as county attorney and is making a like record as a district judge. He is an able lawyer and exceptionally good-natured at all times and under all circumstances, and is ever ready to accommodate both lawyers and litigants in and out of season.

Judge English has the record of having the largest family of any man on the bench, being the father of twelve children, all living but one.

Lee S. Estelle.

Judge Lee S. Estelle served his first term as district judge from 1891 to 1892, filling a vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Groff, the appointment being made by Governor Boyd.

He was elected to that office in 1899, and has remained on the bench since his first election. He is one of the present judges whose terms expire in January, 1917.

Judge Estelle has served longer on the bench than any other judge in the history of this judicial district. He is a candidate to succeed himself at the 1916 primary.

Lee S. Estelle was born at Madisonville, Hamilton County, Ohio, December 25, 1847, came to Nebraska in 1873, locating at Red Cloud. He entered the Union army when but a boy sixteen years of age and served during the entire rebellion. Before being admitted to the bar he was for a few years in the employ of the government as mail agent.

In 1883 he located at Blair, Neb., where he opened a law office and engaged in the practice at that place until 1885, when he was elected district attorney for this judicial district, after which he located in Omaha.

The report of the district convention in which he secured his nomination against his opponent, Henry D. Estabrook, and other incidents of his campaign for the office of district attorney will be found in these Recollections of the events of 1884.

Judge Estelle is an able criminal lawyer, in fact, an all-round good lawyer; is of an even, judicial temperament, very accommodating, independent and impartial in his judicial demeanor, jovial, affable and an all-round genial and companionable gentleman, and has made an exceptionally good record as district judge.

CHAPTER XLII.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The following named men have served as county attorneys of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917:

N. J. Burnham.....	1880-1882—	District Attorney..	Republican
Park Godwin.....	1882-1884—	District Attorney..	Democrat
Lee Estelle.....	1884-1886—	District Attorney..	Republican
Ed W. Simeral.....	1886-1888—	County Attorney..	Republican
T. J. Mahoney.....	1888-1892—	County Attorney..	Democrat
J. L. Kaley.....	1892-1894—	County Attorney..	Republican
Howard H. Baldrige..	1894-1898—	County Attorney..	Republican
George W. Shields...	1898-1902—	County Attorney..	Democrat
James P. English....	1902-1904—	County Attorney..	Democrat
W. W. Slabaugh.....	1904-1906—	County Attorney..	Republican
James P. English....	1906-1912—	County Attorney..	Democrat
George Magney.....	1912-1916—	County Attorney..	Democrat
Present incumbent.			

The following named men have served as county clerks of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917:

John R. Manchester.....	1880-1881.....	Republican
John Baumer.....	1882-1883.....	Republican
H. T. Leavit.....	1884-1885.....	Republican
Gustav Beneke.....	1885 [by appointment].	Democrat
C. P. Needham.....	1886-1887.....	Republican
M. D. Roche.....	1888-1889.....	Democrat
Pete O'Malley.....	1890-1891.....	Democrat
Fred J. Sackett.....	1892-1894.....	Republican
M. H. Redfield.....	1896-1897.....	Republican
David M. Haverly.....	1898-1900.....	Republican
Harry C. Miller.....	1902-1903.....	Democrat
John C. Drexel.....	1904-1905.....	Democrat
David M. Haverly.....	1906-1911.....	Republican
Frank Dewey.....	1912-1916.....	Republican
Present incumbent.		

The men who have served as clerks of the District Court of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917 are as follows:

Wm. J. Ijams*.....	1880-1888.....	Democrat
Frank E. Moores.....	1888-1896.....	Republican
Albian Frank.....	1896-1900.....	Republican
Frank Broadwell.....	1900-1908.....	Democrat
Robert Smith.....	1908-1916.....	Republican
Present incumbent.		

*By appointment for one year by Judge Savage.

The following named men have served as county judges of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917:

A. M. Chadwick.....	1880-1883 [died in office]	Republican
J. H. McCullough.....	1883-1887.....	Republican
Geo. W. Shields.....	1882-1892.....	Democrat
J. W. Eller.....	1893-1895.....	Republican
Irving F. Baxter.....	1896-1902.....	Republican
D. M. Vinsonhaler.....	1903-1909.....	Republican
Charles Leslie.....	1910-1912.....	Republican
Bryce Crawford.....	1912-1916.....	Republican
Present incumbent.		

The men who have served as Douglas County treasurers from 1879 to 1917 are as follows:

Wm. Heintze.....	1880-1881.....	Republican
John Rush.....	1882-1885.....	Republican
Henry Bolln.....	1886-1889.....	Republican
Adam Snyder.....	1890-1891.....	Democrat
H. B. Irey.....	1892-1895.....	Republican
George Heimrod.....	1896-1899.....	Republican
G. Fred Elsasser.....	1900-1903.....	Democrat
Robert Fink.....	1904-1907.....	Republican
Frank A. Furey.....	1908-1911.....	Republican
Wm. G. Ure.....	1912-1916.....	Republican
Present incumbent.		

The following named men have served as sheriffs of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917:

George H. Guy.....	1879-1880.....	Democrat
David N. Miller.....	1881-1884.....	Republican
Wm. Coburn.....	1885-1889.....	Republican
John F. Boyd.....	1890-1891.....	Democrat
George A. Bennett.....	1892-1893.....	Republican
John C. Drexel.....	1894-1895.....	Democrat
John McDonald.....	1896-1899.....	Republican
John Powers.....	1900-1905.....	Democrat
John McDonald.....	1906-1907.....	Republican
Edwin Brailey.....	1908-1911.....	Republican
F. J. McShane.....	1912-1916.....	Democrat
Present incumbent.		

County Commissioners.

The following have served as county commissioners of Douglas County from 1879 to 1917:

Fred Drexel	George Tinne
Wm. Turner	G. A. Williams
A. L. Sutton	Henry Ostrum
L. M. Anderson	Wm. Knight
Major Paddock	Peter Hofelt
Peter Corrigan	John Jenkins
J. P. Connolly	Wm. G. Ure
Charles L. Van Camp	F. W. Corliss
Richard O'Keefe	James McArdle
Tom Hoctor	A. M. Steinburg
W. I. Kierstead	Jeff W. Bedford

and the present incumbents:

John Lynch	Henry McDonald
Tom O'Connor	Frank C. Best
Gus Harts	

The following county recorders of deeds have served as such from the creation of the office in 1888 to 1917: ~

Charles P. Needham	Harry P. Duell
T. A. Megeath	Frank W. Bandle
Peter E. Elsasser	Harry Pierce
	Present incumbent.

CHAPTER XLIII.

POLICE JUDGES.

Patrick O. Hawes was police judge when I came to Omaha in 1880. He was somewhat of a unique character and withal a genial and companionable man; a neat, tidy and tasty dresser, always wearing a silk vest and white, stiff-bosom shirt. The last ten years of his life I learned to know him very well, and whether in public or private life I can say that if he was your friend he was truly loyal, and as an enemy he was equally bitter. It was no unusual thing for him to fine a prisoner while sitting at a beer table, on the statement of a friend who related the facts to him, sticking the fine in one pocket and the costs in the other. The fines at that time went to the state and the costs in payment of his salary. He was defeated for re-election by Gustav Beneke, a democrat, in 1882. He died in 1904, leaving a wife and no children.

Gustave Beneke succeeded Pat Hawes at the city election in the spring of 1882. He was engaged in the insurance business at the time of his election and, while a genial and popular, heavy-set German, he possessed no special qualifications for the position, yet he managed to discharge the duties of his office to the satisfaction of the general public. He served but one term, declining a second nomination. To him belongs the honor of being the only democrat to hold this office from 1880 to this writing.

A. M. Stenborg was at the time of his election as successor to Judge Beneke in 1885 a justice of the peace from the First ward of Omaha. In addition to that he was agent for steamship-companies, with offices at Tenth and Jackson Streets. Judge Stenborg's conduct of his new office was characterized by the use of good horse sense in the solution of the many vexing problems that came before him. It was during his term that the agitation for the Sunday closing of saloons came up, this subject being strenuously advocated by George L. Miller, editor of the Omaha Herald, and Ed. Rosewater, editor of the Bee, the police judge being made the butt of their attacks. Numerous arrests were made, but all demanded and were given jury trials, resulting invariably in acquittal, which judgments did not satisfy the two editors. To show these two gentlemen that he was doing his duty he selected a jury on which were both of the kicking editors, Miller and Rosewater. This was one of the plainest cases of a violation of the law. The jury deliberated for more than six hours and returned with a verdict of "not guilty," which satisfied both editors, and no further howl from

them was ever heard, and Judge Stenborg finished the balance of his term in pursuing the even tenor of his way. He did not seek renomination, but afterwards served two terms as county commissioner of Douglas County. He was born in Sweden and was a credit to his race. He died in 1912.

Louis Berka succeeded Judge Stenborg at the city election in May, 1907. Before his election as police judge he was justice of the peace, having held the office for two years, being elected from the First and Second wards of Omaha, with offices in the Cunningham Block, Thirteenth and Jackson Streets. The city elections were, by an act of the legislature, changed from May to December, thus leaving Judge Berka nearly three years in one term, retiring in January, 1890, and not being a candidate for second term. He was succeeded by Lee Helsley.

Judge Lee Helsley, who took his seat as police judge January 1, 1890, was, before his election, a newspaper reporter on the Omaha Republican, and prior to that time was a justice of the peace from the Third ward of Omaha, having held his office in the old Karbaeh Block on Fifteenth and Douglas Streets. While police judge he was unfortunate in having to render a decision in a case of assault and battery, which was the outcome of a religious feud then existing in Douglas County. It appears that on October 20, 1891, the American Protective Association, an anti-Catholic organization, had held a meeting in Garfield Hall, 1515 Howard Street. After adjournment one Jim Murphy, a switchman, made an assault on John N. Westburg, a member of the organization and one of the crowd. A complaint was filed against Murphy in the police court, charging him with disturbing the peace by fighting. The contention raised by his counsel, M. V. Gannon, was that there was no fight, as Westburg offered no resistance. Judge Helsley so held and discharged the prisoner. It was an indiscrete and unpopular decision, however just, and caused the judge's defeat in the republican convention held a few days thereafter. He was an honest and conscientious judge and used much precision in his dealings with the unfortunates who came before his tribunal of justice. The defeat which he sustained in that convention almost broke his heart, he being little or no good for any calling thereafter, and died August 14, 1906. I was one of the pallbearers at his funeral.

Following Judge Helsley as police judge came Judge Berka, who defeated Helsley in the republican convention. He took his seat January 1, 1892, and served two consecutive terms, or until January 1, 1896.

Following Judge Berka came Samuel I. Gordon, who on January 1, 1896, took his office as police judge. The legislature of 1897, having revised the city charter, caused the election to

be held in May instead of December, as was the law prior thereto. Judge Gordon, having received the republican nomination, was again elected, and served through a stormy period, as well as one of much strenuous effort, this being the year in which the Trans-Mississippi Exposition was held in Omaha. The police and Judge Gordon became at loggerheads, the police contending that the judge was too lenient toward those who were brought before him. This contention on the part of the police, coupled with the then mayor, Frank E. Moores' ambition to run at his will every department of the city, caused the police to treat the police judge with utter contempt. This was continued until January, 1899, when the city council, under the direction of Mayor Moores and City Attorney W. J. Connell, filed charges against Judge Gordon. A mock trial was given him and his seat was declared vacant. He appealed to the District Court and the trial judge, Ben S. Baker, sustained the action of the city council as per agreement, he holding that it was not within the province of a police judge to suspend sentences when once imposed—a rank and raw decision. On appeal, however, to the Supreme Court, Judge Gordon was sustained and reinstated. While being deprived of his office the position was filled by the mayor appointing Wm. R. Learn, a justice of the peace, to fill the vacancy ad interim, but before Judge Gordon returned Acting Judge Learn on March 4, 1899, on stepping from the bench, keeled over. I caught him in my arms as he was falling. He expired in less than one minute. Heart failure was the cause of his death. Judge Gordon resumed his seat on the bench and served out his term. In May, 1900, the republican convention, through the scheming of Frank E. Moores, defeated him for renomination, and in his place nominated B. F. Thomas. Feeling that a grave injustice had been done the old veteran, I secured his nomination in the county populist convention, and appeared before the democratic convention, then in session, and there secured his indorsement at their hands. The election being held, Judge Gordon was triumphantly elected and served his two years' term.

In November, 1901, Judge Berka was again the nominee of the county republican convention and was elected, defeating Judge Gordon, who was the democratic nominee. Judge Berka, succeeding himself, served until his term expired, January 1, 1906. On the completion of his last term as police judge, he had served in that capacity to within a few months of eleven years—not consecutively, but as a whole—and of his administration it must be said that it was characterized by good judgment, honesty and efficiency. He had a judicial mind and temperament, such as justly befits a man for police judge of a large western city. He carried no prejudices and displayed no favoritism—all races, colors and creeds looked alike to him. I tried

many cases before him, and one of the means I had of knowing in advance what his decision would be was by the manner in which he would revolve a paper weight on his desk. If it revolved rapidly, my client was guilty; if otherwise, he was discharged. After leaving the bench he served one term of three years in the Omaha city council. In this connection it might be well to state that the office of police judge having in the Gordon case been declared a constitutional office, the election for that office was changed from a city to a state or county election.

On January 1, 1906, Bryce Crawford took his seat as police judge. He had prior to that been twice elected justice of the peace, a position which he resigned to practice law. He served three terms as police judge. In his candidacy for his last term in 1909 I was defeated by him at the primary for that office. Of Judge Crawford it can be truthfully said that if ever a man was intended by nature for a judicial position it was he. Without noise, ostentation or display, he discharged the duties of his office to the satisfaction of the general public. Since retiring from that office he has twice been elected county judge of Douglas County, a position which he holds at present, the duties of which he has discharged to the satisfaction of the general public. He is a candidate to succeed himself in 1916.

On January 1, 1912, Charles E. Foster took his seat as police judge, having defeated John J. Mahoney, the democratic nominee. Before his election Mr. Foster had at one time served as deputy county attorney of Douglas County. He was the choice and selection of Tom Dennison and Victor Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee. This selection was made on the pretense that Mr. Foster, being a member of the Y. M. C. A., they could easily secure for him the church vote, feeling that they had a cinch on the rough element. However, he was not long police judge when he began to assert his independence, and a mighty howl went up from his sponsors, and his official life was made a torment by and through the officials of the police department. As in the case of Judge Gordon, his was a "rocky road." In the fall of 1914 he was again nominated and elected, after one of the hardest fights ever made by any candidate for office, defeating R. W. Madden, the democratic candidate. For the second time he filled this office, his term expiring in January, 1917. That Judge Foster is an honest and conscientious man no one will deny; that he intends to do what is right is generally conceded, but having mingled with the better element all his life, coupled with the fact that his health was poor, prevented him from possessing that broadness of mind and even temperament so essential to one filling the position of police magistrate of such a large city where so much misery is daily brought before

him. It may be possible for him to change his disposition before his term of office expires, but up to the present time he is far below the standard of some previous police judges. Were it not for the pardoning power exercised by the mayor his lack of judgment would cost the taxpayers many thousands of dollars and much needless suffering to the wives and families of men upon whom he imposes needless sentences.

CHAPTER XLIV.

OMAHA STREETS.

Having given my recollections of many of the incidents and occurrences that have taken place during the past thirty-six years in Omaha, more particularly the political events, which, in my judgment, form the greatest factor in the upbuilding of a nation, state, county or city, I will now note a few of the many changes that have taken place in our business and residence streets during that period of time. This for the benefit of the younger generation that has grown up here, for those who are absent as well as the newcomer. In doing this, I will confine myself to the downtown streets, namely: Leavenworth, Jones, Jackson, Howard, Harney, Farnam, Douglas, Dodge, Capitol Avenue.

Leavenworth Street.

To those who do not know how Leavenworth Street got its name, will state that it acquired it because it was the old road over which the pioneer freight haulers passed going west from Leavenworth, Kansas. Like many of our streets, it was never thought of as becoming a business street, and as a matter of fact there was but one business house on the entire street when I came to Omaha. That was a two-story brick building on the corner of Eighth Street, used at that time and for years afterward as a grocery store, run by Hendricksen and Ben Madsen, in 1880. The Southern Hotel, a very pretentious frame building stood on the corner of Ninth and this street, and was in the early 80's a very fashionable hotel. It was owned by Mrs. McCarthy, mother of Miss McCarthy who was at one time principal of the Pacific Street School. At this writing that building is still standing and is owned and occupied by the Schlitz Brewing Company, which bought it in 1892 for \$12,000. The next business block built on that street was in 1884, by the Moline Plow Company, at 822 Leavenworth Street. A part of the lot on which it is located was owned by Mike Hurt, an old German, who lived there for years and was night watchman at the Union Pacific freight house. The next business house erected was by the John Deere Plow Company in 1885 on the northwest corner of Ninth Street, and was owned by Aleck McGavick. Then came the William M. Bushman storehouse at No. 1013, which was erected about 1883 and at that time was the largest and most spacious building used for that purpose. About the year 1885 W. A. L. Gibbon and James Eddy erected the brick building at No. 1215, on that street, where they conducted a wholesale hardware store until 1888, at which time Mr. Eddy died

and the business was discontinued, and since then Wagner Bros. have occupied it as an implement house. At No. 1307 the Pabst Brewing Company constructed their brick building and still occupy it as a storehouse and distributing point for Nebraska. In 1891 the Booth Oyster Company erected its present storehouse at No. 1308. Prior to its construction there were for years a number of small frame buildings on the lot. The old two-story brick building on the northwest corner, known as the Ainscow Block, was built in 1885 by Ed Ainscow from the brick of which the old Douglas County Court House, on Sixteenth and Farnam Streets, was built. The Gund Brewing Company now occupies the northeast corner of Fourteenth Street. It is a one-story brick, running the entire length of the lot, was erected in 1906 and is used as the distributing point for that company for Iowa and Nebraska. The lot was purchased from the heirs of Jerry Mahoney, an old resident of this city. The Eggerss-O'Flyng Company brick building at Fifteenth and Leavenworth Streets was erected in 1906. This is one of the largest box factories west of Chicago. The Bingham block on Seventeenth Street is a large three-story brick flat and was erected in 1885. It was built by Robert Bingham, father of W. W. Bingham, who was an old resident of Omaha and for many years engaged in the commission business. The two-story brick on the southeast corner of Twentieth Street was built by John F. Behm, an old resident here and former member of the city council. It was built about 1886. The brick buildings on the lot from Twenty-third to Twenty-fourth Streets on the south side of the street were erected about 1886. The lot was formerly owned by Mrs. Patrick Toner, on which she lived for many years. The brick building on the southeast corner of Park Avenue was erected in 1890 by John O'Keefe a former railroad contractor. The mortgage on the property was foreclosed in 1897, when he lost the place. In this connection, it might be well to state that this street in 1885 underwent a heavy change of grade, from Sixteenth to Thirty-sixth Streets, where in places a change from ten to twenty feet was made. This was brought about through the efforts of Michael Lee, then a member of the Omaha city council.

Jones Street.

Jones Street was named after Omaha's first postmaster, the man of whom it is said "carried all of the town's mail in his hat." He also laid out the city in its first plat. This street in 1880 fronted residences large and small, from the Missouri River to Sixteenth Street. The first enterprise was that of the Omaha Electric Light Plant on Sixth Street, erected in 1889. If I am not mistaken, Fred Drexel's stone yard and John Powers' cooper shop preceded this. On Seventh Street there was Benson's ice house, also that of the Arctic Ice Company.

The latter places have been supplanted by larger and more substantial warehouses. The first substantial buildings to be erected on this street were those of Parlin, Orendorff & Martin, at No. 908, used as an implement house. Adjoining this was a wholesale seed house. This concern, if I recall it correctly, failed in 1894 through some disagreement with J. Sterling Morton, then secretary of agriculture, who withdrew the patronage of the government from the house. Paxton & Gallagher erected a large building adjoining this one on the west in 1892.

On the south side of this street, at No. 1011, G. A. Lindquest erected a five-story brick warehouse in 1886. This was about completed when it was blown down by a heavy wind. Further west, where the Bemis factory is located, on the north side of the street, Nos. 1008-10-12, were a number of small cottages, erected about 1883, when the old creek bed was filled. At No. 1209 John Mulvahill erected a five-story brick warehouse in 1887. There were originally a number of small cottages on this lot. Where the Anheuser-Busch building now stands there was an old boarding house, run and owned by a Mrs. O'Grady, at No. 1219.

On the north side between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets, Patrick Quinlan resided in a nice cottage. On this ground now stands a warehouse. In the middle of the block was Haarman's old pickle factory and the residence of Staey Crowley, once teacher at the Omaha High School, now teaching in Chicago. Miss Crowley was born here. Charles Westergaard, the expressman, lived adjoining her for a number of years until about 1887. At No. 1305 there was a residence. Mrs. Ish in 1899 erected a large brick warehouse on this lot. On the lot adjoining this on the west John Walsh lived for more than thirty years. On the southwest corner next to this George Muldoon had his blacksmith shop. These two lots are now occupied by the Cudahy Packing Company as a wholesale house.

On the northeast corner of Fourteenth Street and this street J. J. Hannighen erected in 1910 a large three-story brick warehouse for his plumbing supplies. This lot was vacant for more than thirty years save for a small cottage in the rear. On the northwest corner of Fourteenth stands an old, two-story, large frame house. This was the old home of Vincent Burkley, who lived there from 1869 to the date of his death in 1892. His family, consisting of Frank, Mrs. Burkhart, Mrs. Bethka, Mrs. C. Leary, mother of Attorney Ed. F. Leary, and Harry Burkley were all born there, where they resided until the death of the father. This building is now used as a boarding and rooming house, and is in much need of repair.

On the northwest corner Dr. Peabody lived in a magnificent residence. When the street was graded in 1884, the house was some twenty feet above the street level. The taxes incident to grading and paving were so expensive that the doctor was forced to secure a loan from A. J. Hanscom, who in 1899 foreclosed on it, and the property was subdivided. The David Cole Creamery and Commission House now occupy the corner. The old house still stands on the west side of the lot and is used as a rooming house. On the adjoining lot west of this Julius Nagle, who married Maggie Lange, built a handsome residence and lived there for four years, when the house was by them moved away. The lot is now vacant.

On the north side of the street adjoining the Burkley property stands some fifteen feet above the street what was once a choice residence owned by Terry Mahoney for many years, with commissary department of the government. He resided there from 1884 to 1888. The building is now used as a rooming house and, like the Burkley home, is in much need of paint and paper. On the northeast corner of Fourteenth and this street George A. Joselyn is erecting a five-story brick building to be used as a printing establishment. This was once the property and residence of Mr. Powell, for a number of years a justice of the peace in Omaha. On the southwest corner of Fourteenth and this street is a vacant lot where once stood the beautiful residence of Dr. Conkling. It was built and occupied by him about the year 1870. The house has been torn down. The doctor was once one of Omaha's foremost physicians and is still living but has long since retired from practice. The Swartz Printing Company now occupies the southwest corner of this lot with a two-story brick building.

Jackson Street.

Jackson Street derived its name from President Jackson. About 1887 the Union Pacific local freight house was established on Ninth and this street. Prior to that John A. Wakefield was the owner of a lumber yard on that spot, on a part of which was located one of Omaha's first grist mills and grain elevators, run by Latham Davis. On the northwest corner of Ninth Street was erected in 1886 the Ames Block, one of the largest wholesale houses in the city. Prior to its erection there were a number of small cottages on the lot. On the southwest corner of Ninth Street stands an old frame building now and for years used as a saloon. It was built in 1866 by Mike Dee, and for a number of years was occupied as his residence; the heirs still own this property. The small houses on the south side between Ninth and Tenth Streets are used as residences, the purpose for which they were erected some forty years ago.

The southwest corner of Eleventh and this street, now a vacant lot, was for years the home of Michael Lavin, who died in 1888. On the northwest corner, where now stands the engine house, was the frame residence of Ed. Callahan, who died in 1907. The other frame houses on that side of the street were owned by A. D. Jones and now belong to Frank Burkley. After their removal he erected a substantial brick printing establishment. The small brick building adjoining this property was for a number of years occupied by L. C. Huntington & Son. The basement of it was the first headquarters occupied by the Salvation Army in 1882. On the south side were the residences of many of Omaha's old settlers, notably those of Tom Harrington and Dennie Shannahan. On the next corner west stood for years a Jewish synagogue called the "Bar Nar Israel." The property was afterward purchased by Joe Garneau.

On the northwest corner of Twelfth and this street was a vacant lot owned by John Mulvihill, who in 1883 sold it to the "Garneau Cracker Company," for which purpose it is still used. West of this lot stands the residence of Larry Mangin, some twenty feet above grade. Mr. Mangin was for years employed at the government headquarters distributing mail. He and his mule were familiar figures on our streets.

On the north side of this street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, stand four frame buildings. The one at No. 1310 was for years the residence of Dennis Cunningham. The smaller one was for a long time occupied by the Cohns, of which the merchant tailor was a part of the family. Cunningham owned the property. The houses at Nos. 1314-16 are owned by Patrick Manning. I lived at 1314 for four years, from 1883 to 1887. Mr. Manning resided at No. 1316. At that time this property was among the choicest of Omaha's residences. I had as neighbors Meyer Hellman, the clothier, and Andrew Riley, of Riley Bros., wholesale liquor firm. On the south side of this block were a number of small houses owned by Tom Murray. This entire half block is now occupied by the Skinner Manufacturing Company with a six-story brick building.

On the northwest corner of Fourteenth and Jackson was formerly located a two-story frame building used for years as a boarding house. It was called the "Northwestern Hotel" and run by Charles Daugherty. I boarded with them in 1882. That corner and the residence west of it, where Andrew Murphy lived, and the adjoining lot, on which Mr. Fenwick lived, are now occupied by Andrew Murphy & Son as an automobile factory. The lot farther west on the corner was the old homestead of W. J. Kennedy, implement dealer. This lot is now vacant. On the south side of this block, where the iron works are now located and known as No. 1411, was the former resi-

dence of Michael Lahey, father of Dan Lahey, now of the Omaha detective force. On the south side of the next block, where the Kimball laundry now stands, was for years a vacant lot owned by Charles H. Brown. I was offered this lot in 1883 for \$1,500, Mr. Brown to give me ten years in which to pay for it. To my sorrow, I declined the offer, and the lot at this writing, were it vacant, would bring \$18,000—another proof, if any be needed, to sustain the fact that one's hindsight is not as good as their foresight. On the southwest corner of Fourteenth was formerly the home of Patrick McGovern, father of Bishop McGovern of Cheyenne, Wyo., and for a number of years a priest in the Omaha diocese. This property was sold by Mr. McGovern to Peter Goos, in 1884, upon which he constructed a five-story hotel with stores facing Jackson Street. The old police court and city jail were located on the ground floor and basement of this building from 1889 to 1898.

The northwest corner of Fifteenth and this street was the old homestead on which Mr. Baldwin, the house mover, lived for thirty years. The lot adjoining it was the former residence of Dennis Cunningham, who in 1900 sold it to Rome Miller, upon which he erected a part of the Rome Hotel. On the southeast corner of Sixteenth and Jackson Streets was located the old Kennedy homestead. On that spot were born Attorney J. A. C. Kennedy and "Spike," sons of the late Martin Kennedy. The People's Furniture Company has a twenty-year lease on the property and has erected a five-story brick for its wholesale and retail business.

In 1880 Jackson Street from St. Mary's Avenue to Eighth Street was one of the favorite residence streets of the city. In that year it was graded, leveled and filled. The old creek that ran east on the street from Sixteenth Street was filled and the first main sewer in Omaha was built to take its place. In that year there was a temporary wooden bridge at Thirteenth and this street. It was seldom in use, as the heavy freshets invariably kept it on the move.

Howard Street.

Howard Street derived its name from Colonel Howard, the father-in-law of Henry Farnam, after whom Farnam Street was named. In 1880 it fronted some of the finest residences in Omaha. Commencing on the east at Seventh Street was the residence of Herman Kountze, a handsome two-story frame building surrounded by trees and shrubbery. This house was moved to Ninth Street, south of Leavenworth Street, where it is still standing, the grounds being now used and occupied by the B. & M. Railroad as a freight depot. To the east of this property, about one block, was a pond of fresh water where on many an occasion we were wont to take our evening swim.

On the northwest corner of Eighth and this street stood the old home of Mrs. Hennessey and family. To the west of this house stood the residence of the late John McGinn. Adjoining this on the corner was the home of Mayor Mulcahey, father of the Mulcahey boys, still living in Omaha. This entire half block is now occupied by Byrne, Hammer & Co., with a six-story brick building.

On the southwest corner of Ninth Street stood the first commission house in this city. It was a two-story frame building, the business being carried on by D. B. Beamer. Rocco Bros. have since constructed on this lot a five-story brick, used by them as a commission house. On the southeast corner of that block stood a two-story square brick house, for a number of years used and occupied by Tim Foley as a boarding house, afterwards by the Sisters of St. Mary as a home while teaching at St. Philomena's Parochial School, which was located on the northwest corner of Ninth Street, to the west of which stood a one-story frame house, and on the corner on the west end of the block facing Tenth Street, stood Mike Parr's drug store.

On the southeast corner, facing Ninth Street, there was for years a two-story frame building owner by A. Berthold and run by him as a junk shop. On the west corner of this block, where now stands a creamery, was a two-story frame residence.

West of Tenth Street on the northeast corner, was the old European Hotel for many years, but now replaced by a two-story brick, used for the same purpose. West of that was the residence of Theo. Livingston, a pioneer Union Pacific engineer. The building is still standing and is occupied by a number of Italian families. West of that residence was Dr. S. D. Mercer's old home. Before moving to Fortieth and Cumming Streets, and for a number of years afterward, while general surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad, he made a part of this building his office. On the south side on the west corner for years stood Tim Foley's boarding house.

On the northwest corner of Eleventh and this street, facing Howard Street, were six one-story cottages. They were in 1886 moved off to make room for the present magnificent Mercer Block. To the west of this block, facing Twelfth Street, was the two-story frame residence of James U. Woolworth, one of Nebraska's pioneers and leading lawyers. Mr. Woolworth moved in 1882 to Twenty-second Street and St. Mary's Avenue. The Carpenter Paper Company for a number of years occupied this building. It is owned by Woolworth's widowed daughter, Mrs. Guy Howard, who married the son of General O. O. Howard. There were a number of small frame cottages on the south side of this street, all of which space is now occupied by large brick business houses, the Morse-Cot Shoe Company being the first to place a building of any importance on that side.

On the northwest corner of Twelfth and this street and for more than 100 feet west stood a few small one-story brown cottages. In 1884 Dr. Mercer built a three-story brick on this corner, which for years was used as a hotel and known as the "Mercer." It was afterwards occupied by the O'Brien Candy Company for several years. On the southwest corner, facing Twelfth Street, stood the residence of Mr. Delaware, who died in 1882. This was a one-story frame, the west part of which was used as a rooming house (I roomed there in 1881-2). There is on this lot at this writing a one-story brick used as a printing house. On the lot east of that was the residence of Patrick Hickey, who lived there until 1885, when it was bought by John and James Kilkenney, who erected thereon a four-story brick, which is now used as a commission house.

The corner west, facing Thirteenth Street, was in 1881 owned and occupied by Patrick Manning, and on this lot was a blacksmith shop. In 1882 he built there the present three-story brick, which for years was run by Julius Treitschke as a rooming house and saloon. On the northwest corner, facing Thirteenth Street, in 1881 was a two-story frame building with store, and residence upstairs. It was occupied by one Schmidt, who, with his family, lived there and ran a grocery store. He was afterward extensively engaged in the express business. For a number of years the two lots west of this have been occupied by a blacksmith shop and livery stable. On the corner facing Fourteenth, on the same side, is a one-story brick, erected in 1880 and for years run by Mr. Zimmer as a butcher shop. He died in 1896, since which time it has been used as a saloon and run by Charley Loftman. On the south side of the street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, at 1309-11, stood in 1881 the handsome residence of Frank C. Morgan, who at that time was a partner of Ben Gallagher, afterwards of the firm of Paxton & Gallagher. This lot now has a three-story brick erected in 1892 and occupied by the Festner Printing Company. On the lot west of it is a three-story brick, which was built in 1886 and for a time used as a swimming school. Prior to that the lot was used as a beer garden. On the south corner of that side, facing Fourteenth Street, stands the old Homan homestead, a two-story frame building, at one time one of the finest residences in Omaha. It was built by George Homan, Omaha's pioneer livery stable man. It is now fast going to wreck and ruin, and is occupied as a negro rooming house. The northwest corner, facing Fourteenth Street, was for some thirty years occupied by Andrew Murphy as a horse shoe and wagon shop, and consisted of two one-story frame houses. Mr. Murphy vacated the place in 1899, after which the Storz Brewing Company erected a two-story brick, the lower part of which is used as a saloon. West of this lot there were for a number of years four frame buildings, all of which have been removed to make way

for substantial brick business houses. The west lot in that block, facing Fifteenth Street, was the homestead of Joseph Sheeley, for a number of years engaged in the butcher business and later owner of the Sheeley Packing House of Omaha. The six-story building is now located on that lot.

On the south side of the street there were eight two-story frame cottages. When the Auditorium was located there they were all sold to that company and moved away. The northwest corner of this street, facing Fifteenth Street, was the home of C. J. Karbach. It was a beautiful place, setting far back on his lot and surrounded by shrubbery of all kinds. In 1885 he moved the house off and built there in its stead a three-story brick, which for years was used as a hotel and called the "Karbach"—this building is still used as a hotel, but now called the "Hotel Boquet." West of this lot is a two-story brick owned by Henry Bushman, and was used for a long time by the Frontier Laundry Company, but is now a restaurant. The lot west of this, facing Sixteenth Street, was the home of the late Charles Turner. It was a palatial brick residence of some twenty rooms, supported on all sides by beautiful retaining walls. When Mr. Turner moved to his West Farnam Street residence in 1891 it was used as a fashionable boarding house, and in 1906 was purchased and occupied by the Y. M. C. A., who held it but a short time, then sold it to Sunderland Bros., who erected on it a six-story brick building, now used and occupied by a clothing company. On the southwest corner, facing Fifteenth Street, is the three-story brick owned by George Jocelyn, erected in 1896 and used by the Western Newspaper Union. There was on that lot, prior to this building, a one-story frame building. On the lot west of this was a building owned by the Sanborn Stock Food Company, but for a number of years it has been occupied by the Omaha Gas Company as its headquarters. On the lot west of this was built in 1890 a four-story brick. It was called the Garfield Block and contained one of the largest public halls in the city.

On the northwest corner of Sixteenth Street was the home of George A. Hoagland, a beautiful residence. On this lot is now a four-story brick occupied by Thompson, Belden & Co.

Harney Street.

Commencing on Eighth Street there were, on both sides, north and south, many little cottages, all of which during the past ten years have been replaced by four and five-story brick warehouses. On the southeast corner of Ninth Street stood the old Cousin's House which, up to 1887, was used as a hotel, built for that purpose in 1864 by the erratic George Francis Train. In 1887 it was converted into a hospital by Dr. McMinnamy and

used for that purpose until torn down in 1892 to make room for a large wholesale house. On the southwest corner stood the oldest Catholic Church in Omaha, if not in Nebraska—St. Philomena's. For a number of years it was the Catholic Cathedral and diocesan residence of the first Catholic Bishop in Nebraska, the saintly Bishop O'Gorman. This church was torn down in 1909, and on the grounds is erected a large six-story implement house, owned by the John Deere Plow Company. On the northwest corner of Tenth Street is Fritz Wirth's two-story frame hotel, music hall and saloon, a familiar resort for years. It was there when I came to Omaha. On the southwest corner there is a long one-story brick, built in 1880 and used by Jim Stephenson as a livery stable. For years it has been occupied by Sam Reese's printing shop.

At No. 1211 was erected the first substantial building on this street, built in 1882 by W. J. Broach and for years afterward occupied by him as a wholesale and retail hardware store. To the west, adjoining this lot, stood the old Omaha House, run by Pat Dempsey. The next lot west of this was for years owned by Father Ryan of Columbus, Nebraska, an old recluse who died here in 1897, leaving his vast estate to the Catholic Church and the Bishop of this diocese.

On the southeast corner of Thirteenth Street stands a four-story brick, erected in 1880. It was first occupied by Steele, Johnson & Co. as a wholesale grocery store, afterward by Lee Fried & Co., and at this writing by the Baum Iron Company. The reason that I recall so accurately the year it was built is owing to the fact that I earned my first dollar in Nebraska by shoveling the dirt in excavating the foundation, as told in the opening pages of these Recollections. On the north side stood the St. Charles Hotel, a neat two-story frame. The one-story brick at No. 1220 was built by James E. Boyd in 1883. This was his office while owner of the Boyd Packing House and during his last term as mayor of Omaha. On the northwest corner of Thirteenth Street stood for a number of years the second established implement house in this city, owned by the late W. J. Kennedy. It was torn down in 1889, and on the lot are now two one-story brick buildings used as stores. On the southwest corner of Thirteenth stands a one-story brick, which was in 1880 occupied by Pat O'Toole as a wet goods emporium—or saloon—during all those years and up to the present time, with the exception of the ten years from 1883 to 1893, when it was occupied by S. Johanison as a jewelry store, it has been used as a saloon. The two-story brick on the lot in the rear, or west of it, was used as a fire engine house and a livery stable. The stable was formerly owned by the late Joe Withrow. In 1884 it was used as the democratic headquarters during the Blaine-Cleveland national campaign. The lot west of that was during 1885-6 occu-

pied by Manning & Hiss, as an implement house, afterwards by Wagner Bros., for a like purpose. On the corner of that block, facing Fourteenth Street, stood a small coop of a brick used for a long time by Scott & McCloud as a barber shop.

Recurring to the north side of the street from Thirteenth to Fourteenth Streets, on the northwest corner of Thirteenth Street, the two-story frame building that now stands here was there in 1880 and used for the purpose for which it now and ever has been used—that of a saloon. In 1881 Police Judge Beneke used the upstairs for our police court. It has during all this time been owned by the Bohme estate. The lot west of this is owned by August Pratt, formerly of Omaha, but now of California. In 1895 he erected on the lot a large warehouse and store building. In 1880 this lot had on it a two-story frame used as a hotel and run by Michael Donovan, afterward proprietor of the Creighton House. The corner facing Fourteenth Street was occupied by a carriage shop used by William Snyder, manufacturer of fancy buggies. He sold out his business in 1886, and the last heard of him he was in Alaska. The property was later purchased by the Krug Brewing Company, on which it erected the present Krug Theater.

On the southwest corner of Fourteenth Street in 1882 there was a two-story frame building owned by a Mrs. Riley and used as a boarding house. In 1886 this property was bought by the Pacific Express Company, who erected on it the present five-story brick building, and was until 1906 used by them as their express office. In 1914 it was converted into a hotel, for which purpose it is now used. On the lot west of it stood a small brick, used by Watson Bros. as a horse shoeing shop. The northwest corner was for years afflicted with a two-story, unsightly, frame building, used by the owner, Tom Murray, as a store house for everything from a left-hand monkey wrench to an anchor. In the spring of 1885 it was removed and in its place was laid the foundation of what years afterwards was a hotel, known as the "Murray Hotel." It required seven years to construct the building, it being done by day work, a man and a boy working on it semi-occasionally. West of this and adjoining it was located the "J. F. Hammond Machine Shop," which went out of business in 1883 and gave way to the substantial brick and business house that now stands on the lot. In this connection it might be well to state that this street was graded in 1884 from Fifteenth to Twenty-fourth Street, the contract being awarded to Callahan & Co. This caused a radical change in the condition of things, more especially to permanent buildings.

On the northwest corner of Fifteenth stood in 1880 the residence of Judge John I Redick, who lived there until 1882, when it was torn down to make way for the present substantial brick

buildings, including the Gayety Theater. On the northeast corner of Sixteenth Street, in that block, the Kountze Memorial Church was built in 1884. In 1900 the lot was sold to Judge James Neville for \$70,000. This, I think, included the brick edifice. In 1904 he erected on that lot a two story brick, a very unsightly building for such a valuable corner.

On the southeast corner of Fifteenth Street in 1880 stood the leading hotel of Omaha, a three-story brick, known as the "Withnell Hotel," which was purchased by Gibson Miller and Richardson in 1884 and converted into a printing establishment, from which place the Omaha Daily Herald was issued. In 1887 the building and newspaper was purchased by the then congressman from this district, John A. McShane, who in 1890 razed the building and erected in its stead the Creighton Hall and theater, now the Orpheum.

On the southeast corner of the block, facing Sixteenth Street, on a high embankment, was the fine residence of Mr. Balback, one of the head men of the Omaha Smelting Works. This building was torn down in 1890 and for a number of years the lot remained vacant. In 1906 it was purchased by an eastern syndicate who in that year erected on it the present sixteen-story office and store building which is now known as the "City National Bank Building" and the home of the City National Bank. On the northwest corner of Sixteenth Street stood for many years the home of A. D. Jones, Omaha's first postmaster. In 1884, in grading this street, the house was some forty feet above the street, necessitating three sections of steps to effect an entrance to the house. In 1897 the Schlitz Brewing Company purchased the property and erected on it the present four-story brick structure, known as the Schlitz Hotel, the first floor being used mostly by different companies as stores. To the west of this lot, in a two-story frame house, lived E. E. Nash, who before his death was president of the American Smelting and Refining Company. In 1886 he moved the building, and in 1900 erected on the lot the present four-story substantial store building running from 1608 to 1612.

On the northeast corner of this block, facing Seventeenth Street, lived Captain Charles B. Ruston, vice president of the Omaha Street Railway Company and of the Omaha Smelting Works. The Rustons moved from there in 1887. The property was purchased by John F. Coad, he in turn selling it to a man named Keeline who, in 1910, erected the present seven-story brick office and store building known as the Keeline Brick.

On the southwest corner of Sixteenth Street for a number of years lived Omaha's first mayor, Jessie Low. This corner also suffered the effects of grading, and the Lows were in the same plight as A. D. Jones on the other corner, their house

standing some forty feet above the street, with three sections of stairs winging their way to the house up the steep bank. In 1898 W. R. Bennett & Son purchased the property and built on it the present four-story brick building, moving there from Fifteenth Street and Capitol Avenue. This proved too large an undertaking, and the firm in 1906 sold the store and building to J. E. Baum, who in 1913 sold to the present occupants, Burgess-Nash Company. The lot ran the entire length of the block to Seventeenth Street. J. E. Boyd in 1894 purchased the west end and erected the present Boyd Theater.

On the southwest corner of Seventeenth Street is located the Y. M. C. A., which covers two city lots. It is a six-story stone building, built in 1906. Tom Murray was the former owner of the lots, which stood twenty-five feet above the street level and were dotted with a number of old, dilapidated frame buildings.

Farnam Street.

Farnam Street was called after a man named Henry Farnam, a railroad promoter in the pioneer days of Iowa. It underwent what might be termed more "surgical operations" than any other of Omaha's streets. From its earliest history it was a traveled thoroughfare to the west. In 1880 it had little or no sidewalks. The center of the street was macadamized with gravel, which proved but a temporary makeshift. The balance of the street was one continual mud hole. It must have been the sight of this that caused Saxe, the poet, to write his version of Omaha, when he wrote:

"Hast ever been to Omaha,
Where rules the dark Missouri down,
Where four strong horses scarce can draw
An empty wagon through the town?"

I do not know when he penned these lines, but I do know they were in no way lacking in truth in 1880. It was the usual thing to see this street torn up and blocked on an average of six or eight times a year for one reason or another. It was first paved with Sioux Falls granite in 1883, after which it was discovered that the sewers were inadequate, necessitating new ones; then came lateral sewers and various connections, followed by larger pipes and sundry other requirements. In 1910 the stone pavement was removed, asphalt taking its place.

The grade from Fifteenth to Twentieth Streets was changed on two occasions. At each meeting for that purpose the owners of abutting property almost came to blows. I recall one instance of this in the early part of 1883, when one evening while reclining against the fence surrounding the old Court House on Sixteenth Street, where now stands the Paxton Block, my atten-

tion was attracted by a loud noise and angry voices, which I discovered were coming from the old council chamber upstairs in an old frame building, located where now stands the United States National Bank. Prompted by curiosity, I climbed the old rickety stairs which lead me to the scene of strife. There I found engaged, in an all but deadly struggle, Ed. Rosewater and Andrew, his brother, then city engineer; John I. Redick, W. A. Paxton, A. J. Hanscom, T. W. T. Richards, Dick or John Withnell (I do not recall which), Charles S. Goodrich and Joe Barker. The grade on this street had been established and an effort was being made at that meeting to change it, making a deeper cut from Sixteenth to Twentieth Streets. The contemplated change provided for a six-foot cut, this being advocated by the Rosewaters, Paxton and Redick, and bitterly opposed by the others. Finally a compromise was reached by agreeing upon a three-foot cut. This proved a very fortunate compromise; yet, had the cut as advocated by the Rosewaters and others been carried out, the street would have had a better grade and it would have long since been a better retail street, as evidenced by the wisdom displayed by the Harney Street property holders at that time engaged in a similar struggle.

Passing this event I will now endeavor to describe the street as it was in 1880, and as it is this year, 1916.

Commencing on Eighth Street, I found at that time on the north side of the street a number of small cottages east of the Union Pacific headquarters, most of which are now used as junk shops. Those, together with the headquarters, covered that side of the block, while on the south side, in the middle of the block, was, in later years, a livery stable. Adjoining it was a frame cottage, the home of Mr. Fox, the contractor.

On the southeast corner of Ninth Street was the old Canfield House, run for years by George Canfield who, up to 1881, had been a passenger conductor on the Union Pacific—the house has changed hands frequently since Canfield gave it up. Among others who ran it was G. Fred Elsasser in 1910. The property was owned by S. H. H. Clark. On the northwest corner of Ninth Street was a vacant lot. It is claimed that the Nebraska territorial capitol was once located on it. It is now occupied as a part of the M. E. Smith Manufacturing Company. Adjoining this lot to the west stands a one-story brick. This building was at one time the home of the Omaha Bee. In 1882 this company built adjoining it a four-story brick, using the smaller one as the business office. Further west in that block on the northeast corner stands a large five-story brick, built in 1882, by A. L. Strang. The lower floors were used by him as a supply house and the upper ones by the Department of the Platte as their headquarters from 1885-8. It was in later years occu-

pied by the Omaha Printing Company. On the southwest corner of Ninth Street once flourished the old Tivoli Garden, which was in its prime from 1881 to 1886. Many were the pleasant evenings spent by me in listening to the music of Mr. Thiel's band and enjoying the cool breezes under the shade of the "Anheuser Busches." Adjoining this garden was the undertaking shop of C. Riewe, who conducted the second oldest business of the kind in Omaha in point of years. West of Riewe's place was the old Doran House, known and remembered by many of Omaha's prominent men of today, who at one time or another boarded there in their younger days. It was run by a saintly widow lady, named Mrs. Doran, who about 1882 married Pat Carey, one of nature's noblemen. Mrs. Doran, or Mrs. Carey, was the mother of Father Doran, an Omaha boy, now a distinguished Jesuit priest and head of that order—I believe in Milwaukee. In 1889 this house was moved to Nineteenth near Harney Street, where it is still run as the Doran House. Mrs. Carey died about ten years ago, her husband following about 1911. While I never boarded at that house, yet it was my pleasure to have personally and intimately known both of those persons from 1880 until the time of their death.

On the southeast corner of Tenth and this street was located the Green Tree House, run by Dan Tobin. It was moved in 1887 to Eighteenth and William Streets, where it now stands. On this ground was erected, in 1891, by Allen Bros., the wholesale grocers, the present six-story fireproof building. On the northwest corner of Tenth Street is the B. & M. headquarters. Up to 1885 it was occupied by McCord-Brady & Co. as their wholesale grocery house. The building on the northeast corner of the block was built by Max Meyer in 1881, and for a number of years was used by him as a jewelry store. It was the most prominent corner in Omaha for years. On the southwest corner of Tenth Street is a two-story brick, built in 1886 by A. J. Poppleton. For years it has been occupied by a wholesale liquor house, first by Stubendorf & Nestor, afterwards by Andy Frick, the present occupant. The upstairs part was occupied by the Y. M. C. A. from 1887 to 1890. On this lot A. J. Poppleton built his law office in 1858. I have heard him say that it was a one-room sod house constructed by himself. The brick building adjoining it on the west was built in 1885 by the Krug Brewing Company and has been used as a hotel during all of the time. It is known as the "Vienna Hotel." I have been informed by Mr. Krug, Sr., that on that lot he built his first residence in Omaha and the spot on which most of his children were born. He is yet alive, though long past the three score years and ten. The small buildings, from the last named to the corner of Eleventh Street, have been occupied by various people and for various purposes during the past thirty-six years.

The two-story brick on the northwest corner of Eleventh and Farnam Streets was for years the property of Count Creighton, where, on the second floor, he maintained his office in 1887. In the early '80s the spacious hall was used for dances and large gatherings, and on more than one occasion have I tripped the "light fantastic" at a St. Patrick's Day ball in that old hall. This old building was occupied at one time by F. C. Festner & Son as a printing office. The Eden Muse was located on the first floor during the year 1890, and since then it has been a "general supply house." The adjoining building west, called the "Lytle Block," was built in 1882 by Judge J. W. Lytle, one of Omaha's pioneer lawyers. The upper floors have been used for various purposes since its erection. In 1882 Rathbun & Dailey occupied it for a commercial school. The small brick west of this was built by Ed. Callahan in 1878, and has been used as such since that time.

The northeast corner of Twelfth and this street was for thirty years occupied and owned by Dick Wild, who ran what was called the finest saloon in Omaha. He was a great sport, fancy horses and race tracks being his hobby. He died in 1906. A five-story auto supply house was built there in 1910, covering the entire length of the lot. On the southwest corner, facing Eleventh Street, is a five-story brick, used as a hotel and saloon—more for saloon than hotel purposes. It was built in 1897. In 1881 it was occupied by James McVittie, father of Tom McVittie of Omaha, as a grocery store. It is dignified with the title of "Oxford Hotel." A few doors to the west of this is the large three-story brick, for more than a quarter of a century the wholesale and retail furniture stores of Dewey & Stone. West of this stands a small two-story brick store, built about 1878 by John Kennelly, one of Omaha's oldest settlers. On the southeast corner there is a two-story brick which can justly be classed as an old landmark. A part of this building was a wholesale and retail cigar store. Among the early tenants who so used it for that purpose were Mattes Toft, now deceased; Teo. Olsen, once city councilman and later city comptroller of Omaha, and later on by Jim McGuckin. The entire store part of this building is now used as a retail clothing house. The second story was for twenty-five years used by Julius Meyer as his living apartments, where he kept the greatest display of Indian curios and costumes in this country. In these rooms, in 1882, the democratic city central committee met as the guests of Mr. Meyer.

On the northwest corner of Twelfth Street stood an old frame building, which was torn down in 1882 to make room for the Nebraska National Bank, which was erected there in that year by Henry W. Yates. This is a six-story narrow building and called the "Iron Building." The Nebraska National Bank

still occupies it. The adjoining building west was for years owned and occupied by N. I. D. Solomon as a store. The bank sought to purchase it from the owner, but the price was unreasonably high, so they built without it. Nick Yager ran a restaurant in the place for sixteen years, since which time it has been used as a saloon, run by Cackley Bros. West of this was the furniture house of Charles Shiverick. This firm had two very costly fires, one in 1892 and the other in 1893, after which they practically went out of business. On the adjoining lot west was located the Omaha Furniture Company. This was a two-story frame building. When vacant it was used temporarily by the First National Bank while its present place was being constructed in 1887. Ed. Maurer occupied the adjoining lot where stood a two-story frame building. Permanent brick buildings now occupy both of these lots. The small one-story frame adjoining the Merchants National Bank was from 1882 to 1888 occupied by A. Martin as a tailor shop, and is now used as a cigar store.

The northeast corner of that block, facing Thirteenth street, where the six-story Merchants National Bank now stands, was covered by a one-story frame store building facing Farnam Street, and was from 1881-88 used as a hat store and owned by a retired army officer, Col. Frederick. On the southwest corner of Twelfth stood a real old landmark—the original home of the United States National Bank. It was a two-story white brick, with large basement used for years by a Mr. Gamil as a barber shop. The first floor was occupied by the bank. The familiar iron stairs on the east side over the sidewalk in 1881 led to the Ogallala Land and Cattle Company's office. This building was torn down in 1886 and the present six-story stone was erected in its place. The greater part of the upstairs has for a long time been used by the Northwestern Railroad as its headquarters. The bank vacated the place in 1907, when it consolidated with other banks and moved to its present headquarters on Sixteenth Street. On the west of the bank, at No. 1211, Henry Hardy ran a 99c store from 1881-7, since which time it has been occupied by the Omaha Furniture and Carpet Company. The adjoining building was from 1886 to 1905 occupied by Hill & Young as a furniture store. The next place west, and adjoining the First National Bank, was for years used as a hardware store, owned by a Mr. Snyder.

The southeast corner of Thirteenth and Farnam was in 1880 covered by a two-story frame building used by the First National Bank for the same purpose that it now is. In the rear of this at that date J. E. Boyd, pork packer, had his office. The building was razed in 1887 and the present one erected. On the northeast corner of Thirteenth and this street stands a two-story brick, the former home of the Merchants National Bank.

It is an old landmark and was built in the early days of Omaha. Of late years it has been occupied by a drug company. Prior to that it was the Union Pacific ticket office. The building west of it was used by J. A. Caulfield as a stationery and book store. Adjoining this was in 1880 located the dry goods store of J. H. F. Lehman. It was a one-story frame building. The first white shirt purchased by me in Nebraska was bought there in March, 1880. The building was torn down about 1883 and the present brick was erected on the lot. In 1895 Ed. Maurer purchased the property for \$12,000, since which time he has conducted his present business—that of a saloon and restaurant. This restaurant has for years been known throughout this western country as the most up-to-date one of its kind to be found. The two-story frame building west of this was for twenty-five years used by John Baumer as a jewelry store. He retired from business in 1896. This is the only frame building now standing in any block of this street from Thirteenth to Eighteenth Streets. The adjoining four-story brick, which for the past ten years has been occupied by the Postal Telegraph Company, was erected about 1888. Sam Burns' Crockery Store was for many years located at No. 1318. On the northeast corner of that block is the "Cahn Block," a two-story brick, another of Omaha's oldest landmarks. Since its erection back in the '70s it has been owned by the Cahn family and was erected by Aaron Cahn, one of Omaha's oldest clothiers. The stores facing Farnam Street are used, one as a cigar store and the other as a ticket office. Judge A. C. Troup and Ed. Cornish had their law offices upstairs for a long time. In 1882 Rector the furrier occupied the corner store and Phillip Lange the other as a shoe store

On the southwest corner of Thirteenth Street was M. Hellman's three-story brick building which, up to 1888, was the largest exclusive clothing store in this city. In 1897 it was converted into a hotel on the European plan, and was called the "Dewey." It was destroyed by fire in February, 1913, and in 1914 the Omaha Printing Company erected in its place the present five-story brick—one of the largest printing houses in the west. Two of the buildings west of this were for years used as drygoods stores, one by Loyal Smith, and the other by S. P. Morse & Co. Smith was a sensational bargain-giver and at times would give free excursions to Omaha from a radius of 100 miles around, when carpets would be laid on the sidewalks almost the entire length of the block. One pleasant Saturday night in the spring of 1886 he locked the store doors and decamped for Canada, leaving behind him debts aggregating \$100,000. In the summer of 1887 Morse disposed of his store and business. West of these buildings in 1880, Ish & McMahon ran a drug store, this being the closest the block ever came to harboring a saloon until 1889, when Dorst established a wholesale liquor house at No. 1313 in

that block. On the southeast corner of that block stood one of Omaha's oldest hardware and stove stores, and one of the most extensive in the entire west. It was a three-story building occupying a full city lot and was owned and run by Milton Rogers & Son. This ground and building was sold by the Rogers estate in 1910 to the Woodmen of the World, who erected on the lot its present sixteen-story building, it being the headquarters of the order as well as an office building and stores.

On the northwest corner of Fourteenth and Farnam in 1880 there was a two-story frame store and office building, one of the stores being used by A. D. Morse Shoe Company. His signs read: "A boy can buy as cheap as a man at A. D. Morse's," this being about all the advertising he did, that being sufficient, as it made him famous. The present two-story brick on that lot was erected about 1883 and for years a part of the second floor was used as a hall, known as "St. George's Hall." For years John L. Webster had his office there, as did Boggs & Hill. The Norris ticket office and cigar store and J. B. Williams, the tailor, at one time occupied two of its stores, the latter being the oldest tenant in point of duration in the building. West of this at No. 1412 is the World-Herald office, located there in 1887. Prior to that there was a one-story brick there, used as a saloon and run by Ed. Wittig. Adjoining this to the west has for years been the saloon and billiard hall of Lentz & Williams; it is a two-story brick—this being part of the ground upon which in 1885 was erected a one-story narrow brick building where, in January of that year David Miller, ex-sheriff of Douglas County, started a saloon which for years was known as a political headquarters and called the "Drum," but it proved an expensive venture to Miller. Adjoining this on the northeast corner was Boyd's Opera House, erected in 1882. It was completely destroyed by fire in October, 1893. In 1896 the Nebraska Clothing Company purchased the ground and erected its present five-story clothing house. In 1880 an old livery stable, owned by Wilber & Co., occupied this lot.

On the southwest corner of Fourteenth Street is located the Paxton Hotel. When it was built, in 1882, it was considered the finest hotel in the city if not in the entire west. It was a vacant lot in 1880, and prior to the fire of 1878, the Grand Central Hotel stood there. The Ketchum brothers built the present hotel, which they have managed since its erection. The building west of it was the place from which the old Morning Herald was issued. At No. 1415, C. S. Goodrich ran a store in 1885. At No. 1417 was, in 1880, located the first undertaking establishment in the city, and was owned and run by John G. Jacobs, and after his death by Drexel & Maul. At No. 1419 is the Drexel Shoe Company. In 1883 Henry Dohl occupied it for a like purpose. On the southeast corner of that block and Fifteenth Street is

located the Ware Block, erected in 1882 by W. A. Paxton. It is a six-story brick used for stores and offices. For a number of years it was used by Kelley, Steiger & Co. as a drygoods store. It was named in honor of the wife of the owner, W. A. Paxton.

On the northwest corner, on Fifteenth Street, was located the old Union Block, also called the Wabash Corner because the ticket office of that road was located there from 1880-90—Frank E. Moores being the agent. For years it was the spot where political medicine was mixed. I recall one instance in 1890 when there were gathered in a group James E. Boyd, W. J. Bryan, Charles H. Brown, C. V. Gallagher, J. Sterling Morton and myself. At this writing this building is being razed to make way for the eight-story building of the Omaha World-Herald, this lot having been purchased by the company in 1914. The five-story brick west of this was built in 1882 by Peter Goos, and was used by him as a hotel, then called the "Goos Hotel." In 1885 it was sold to W. A. Paxton who in 1895 sold it to Lou Hill. Since 1885 it has been known as the "Merchants Hotel." The lots west of that are the ones on which the Paxton Block is located, that building extending to the northeast corner of Sixteenth Street. In 1880 and up to 1883 the Douglas County Court House stood on that corner, when it was sold to Paxton for a certain sum, and part in exchange for other lots where now stands the new Court House. The Paxton Block was erected in 1888. In 1895 it was sold to the present owners, the Boston Ground Rent Company.

On the southwest corner of Fifteenth Street is located the Barker Block. This ground has been owned by the Barker estate, to my personal knowledge, since 1880. In that year and up to 1886 there stood on that lot a two-story frame building, used for stores and offices. In 1886 a new building was started, but before its completion it was destroyed by fire. The present six-story brick was constructed immediately afterward, the main floor of which is occupied as a bank. The adjoining two-story brick was built in 1882 by O. F. Davis and for years was used by the Davis Real Estate Company. The brick adjoining this was built in 1884 by George W. Ames & Son, after whom Ames Avenue was called, and was used as their real estate office up to 1893. Adjoining this to the west is the old Redick Building which, from 1884-90, was used as an office building. It is but a four-story brick. In 1910 there was added to this as an annex a six-story fireproof building. Though but thirty feet in width, this, in addition to the old building, makes a first-class hotel, which for years has been called the "Henshaw," run by T. J. O'Brien. A two-story brick twenty feet in width adjoins this and is owned by the Redick estate.

On the southwest corner of that block, on Sixteenth Street, in 1880, stood the handsome residence of Charles S. Goodrich.

In 1884 the property was purchased from him by John A. McShane for \$40,000, and the residence was torn down and replaced by a number of one-story brick buildings. In 1887 Zachariah Thompson bought the property from McShane for something like \$60,000, at least he so informed me. Mr. Thompson had his real estate office in the corner store until 1888, when it was rented to Mr. Schroeder for a drug store, which he occupied until 1894, when it was rented for a like purpose by the Myers-Dillon Drug Company, who occupied it until August of this year, when the property was leased from the Thompson heirs for a period of ninety-nine years by the Rose Realty Company, which is erecting on the entire lot a substantial six-story office and store building. I recall an incident that took place in 1882, which was in connection with this lot. When the change of grade of this street was being agitated there was a big pond on the street just east of Sixteenth, and Mr. Goodrich, who was something of a wag, dressed a dummy in a rubber suit and hat, placed a rod and line in his hand, with a sign reading, "Fishing good, but pond dangerous—no bottom."

On the northwest corner of Sixteenth Street, in 1880, stood a three-story, long frame building known as Redick's Opera House, which from 1882-86 was used as our city hall, police station and police court. In 1889 the old place was torn down and the lot sub-divided, and in 1894 S. P. Morse erected a five-story drygoods house on the north end. In 1895 the Commercial National Bank erected a three-story store and bank building on the corner. In 1906 this bank was merged with the United States National which, in 1915, razed the old building and erected in its stead the present five-story stone, with additional ground to the west. On the northeast corner of this block stood the residence of Joseph Millard who, in 1887, sold the property to the New York Life Insurance Company. It, in 1888, erected the ten-story building that is now on the lot. It was the first building of that magnitude erected west of Chicago. Mr. White, who was murdered by Thaw in New York some years ago, drew the plans of the building. This property, in 1912, was purchased by the Omaha National Bank, to which it moved that year, leaving Mr. Joseph Millard, its president, in his declining years to do business upon the same lot upon which he lived while raising his family, from the early '60s to 1887.

On the southwest corner of Sixteenth Street in 1881 stood a fire engine house, the lot being owned by the city of Omaha, which in 1884 sold it to the Omaha Board of Trade for \$12,000—I was present at the time the deed was signed and delivered by Acting Mayor Murphy to Mr. Ames, a member of the Board. This was in the mayor's office about 5 o'clock p. m. of the day on which it was signed. In 1885 the Board of Trade erected on the lot a six-story brick, part of which was for offices, the main floor

being used as a grain exchange. The city council occupied part of the second floor from 1888 to 1891. It was also the home of the Commercial Club for years. The building was destroyed by fire on February 16, 1915, and the property sold to the First National Bank, which intends erecting on the lot an eighteen-story fireproof bank, office and store building, which is to be finished by 1917. The one-story stores west of this were erected in 1888. This property has changed hands a number of times since the buildings were erected, all of which now belong to W. Farnam Smith. They are an eyesore and should be replaced by more substantial ones on property as valuable as this. The old Patterson Block on the southeast corner of Seventeenth Street, a three-story brick, is another eyesore which I am informed by the recent owner, Mr. George A. Joselyn, is soon to be replaced by a substantial store and office building.

On the southwest corner of Seventeenth Street stands the Douglas County Court House, a magnificent five-story stone building, which occupies one-half block in width and one block in length on the Harney Street side, leaving the north side for future extensions and maintaining a beautiful lawn. It was erected in 1912, taking the place of the old, unsightly, inconvenient old Court House built in 1885.

On the northwest corner of Seventeenth Street is the Omaha Bee building, in which I have had my offices for the past three years and where I have written all of these Recollections. This seven-story building was erected in 1887 by the Bee Building Company, through the efforts of the late lamented Edward Rosewater, founder and editor of the Omaha Bee, who did more than any other dozen men to build up not only Omaha, but this entire western country. For years he lived on this lot in a small white cottage. When the street was graded in 1883 the house stood about thirty feet higher than the present curb line. The Omaha Morning and Evening Bee are issued from this building, the plant being in the basement. West of it, on the northeast corner, is the City Hall, a six-story stone building, erected in 1890 during the administration of Mayor Cushing at a cost of \$250,000, a monument to the memory of that administration. Its original foundation, which cost \$4,000, was laid by Brennan & Whelan. On my entrance into the city council in 1890, I caused an investigation to be made as to the durability and strength of this work, and a committee consisting of Dan Wheeler, W. G. Shriver and myself was appointed and reported its defects and recommended it being torn down. Our report was accepted and the present foundation was put in its place. The building, while in good condition, is sadly in need of up-to-date remodeling. In 1880 W. A. Paxton resided on that lot.

On the northwest corner now stands the Deverage Block, a two-story brick used for stores and a rooming house. In 1880

T. W. T. Richards, an attorney and owner of the Omaha Foundry and Machine Shop—now the Paxton & Vierling Iron Works—lived there. He was one of the sufferers from the grading of this street, he being left some thirty feet on a high embankment.

On the southwest corner of Seventeenth Street lived for years Omaha's first police judge, Judge Porter. His son-in-law, Ed. Haney, owned and occupied the house from 1881 to 1906, when it was sold to F. D. Wead, who erected on it the present three-story brick for store and office purposes. It is known as the Wead building.

Douglas Street.

Douglas Street was named after the Little Giant of Illinois—Stephen A. Douglas—who at one time was the idol of the democratic party, second only to Andrew Jackson. In 1880 there were but few substantial business blocks on this street, aside from what was then called the Caldwell Block. On the south side of that street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, there were a few brick structures. That block alone possessed the only evidence of business on the street. The Paddock Block, on the southwest corner of Eleventh Street, and the Glynn Block, on the northwest corner, were the first evidences of permanent buildings on the street. They were erected about 1883. The Millard Hotel, on the northeast corner of Thirteenth Street, was built about the same year. The Metropolitan Hotel, on the northeast corner of Twelfth Street, is an old landmark that runs back to Omaha's early days. It was a popular resort in the early '80s, but has of late years been used mostly as a cheap lodging house. Where the Millard Hotel now stands the Vicher Block stood. That was a two-story frame building used for stores and offices. Gladstone Bros. occupied one of the stores and carried on an extensive grocery business. On the southwest corner of Fourteenth there was a two-story brick, the store part of which was used by Wm. Flemming as a grocery store, he retiring from business in 1895, since which time a new three-story brick has taken its place.

At No. 1407 for years Little & Williams ran a grocery store. At No. 1409, in 1888, Charles Higgins opened a saloon and restaurant, this venture lasting but a short time, as he went broke. Numerous other parties thereafter engaged in various lines of business in that building, but for one reason or another they were but short lived. In 1898 the present occupants rented the building for a saloon, which is known as the "Budweiser" and owned by Wm. Nestlehouse, but the name should be the "Palace," as it is the political home of the Political King of Douglas County, the man who holds the destiny of both the democratic and republican parties in the hollow of his hand.

On the southeast corner of Fifteenth Street stands the Karbach Block, erected by Charles Karbach in 1887. It is an office and store building of six stories. This corner was, from 1888 to 1898, occupied by C. S. Raymond, the jeweler, from which time the Ryan Jewelry Company has rented it. The German Savings Bank occupied another of its stores from 1890-96, when it went into the hands of a receiver. From 1880-85 on this corner was located a two-story frame store and office building known as the "Bushman Block." Wm. Bushman during that time ran a drygoods store in the corner room. Many of Omaha's pioneer lawyers had their offices in that building, among them being N. J. Burnham, Albert Swartzlander, Judge A. N. Furgeson and Sam Ballet, all of whom have passed beyond the great divide.

On the northwest corner of Thirteenth Street in 1880 was the old Republican building, a two-story brick. The Omaha Republican, a morning paper, was issued from there. The building was torn down in 1884, when the company moved to its new place on the southwest corner of Tenth and this street. On this lot, in 1885, was erected a three-story building, since which time the entire block has been built solidly with substantial business houses. At No. 1402 is located the old Fuller Block, which from 1883 to 1906 was occupied by J. A. Fuller as a drug store. During the past eight years it has been used for a saloon—run by Jabez Cross. At No. 1404 is located one of the first picture shows in Omaha. At No. 1408 was the Duke Hardware store. It went out of business in 1888, having sold to C. O. Lobeck, our present congressman. At No. 1410, T. J. Beard & Brother have had their paper and paint store since 1885, prior to which time it was occupied by Welte & McDonald as a ready-made ladies' garment store. At No. 1412 is a saloon, which was opened up in 1886 by Foley & Dorst, but since 1889 it has been run by Tom Foley.

The Continental Block, on the northeast corner, was erected in 1888. Prior to that there were a number of one-story frame buildings running as far east as No. 1412, one being occupied by a restaurant and another by Bunce, the hatter, and the corner by Owen McCaffrey as a saloon.

On the northwest corner of Fifteenth Street is the old Creighton Block, erected in the early '70s. For fifteen years the corner store was occupied and run by Norman A. Kuhn as a drug store, he retiring from the business in 1896. It was there that both Sherman and McConnell, Omaha's leading druggists, learned the business. There were a number of small frame buildings between that and the corner west. Most of them were torn down in 1912 to make room for the Empress Theater, an expensive building built that year by J. L. Brandeis Co. of Omaha.

The building on the northeast corner of Sixteenth Street was built in 1885 by William Bushman for a store and office

building, the store being used by him for a dry goods store. The building is on leased ground, Bushman's lease having expired some years ago. In 1914 the ground and building was leased by Ex-Congressman J. L. Kennedy for a term of ninety-nine years.

The Browning-King building, on the southwest corner of Fifteenth Street, has been used by the company as a clothing store since 1886. From 1879 to 1886 it was the drygoods store of Cruickshank & Faleoner. The property is owned by the heirs of the late Lew Hill. The building west of this, No. 1507, has been owned by Thomas Kilpatrick & Co. since 1890, at which time they started the present mammoth retail dry goods house. The two-story brick store at No. 1519 was built by A. Martin, the tailor, in 1886. The lot was purchased by him in 1882 for \$12,000; I was present at the time and witnessed the payment of the option money. This proved to be one of the best investments in real estate of those early days.

On the southeast corner of Sixteenth Street is the Brown Block, a five-story, narrow office building, with a one-store space. J. J. Brown built this structure in 1886. It was the first home of the City National Bank when organized in 1906.

On the northwest corner of Sixteenth Street is the gentlemen's clothing department of the Brandeis Stores, which was built and occupied by that company in 1892. In February, 1894, the building was totally destroyed by fire, and that year it was rebuilt and occupied by the same firm. The six-story brick next to it, on the west, is owned and used by Hayden Bros. as the piano department of their store. It was built in 1906. On this ground for more than thirty years stood the German Catholic Church and Parochial School. They in 1902 sold the property to the present owners, erecting a church the same year at Nineteenth and Dodge Streets.

On the northeast corner of Seventeenth Street is a three-story brick, formerly called the "Patterson Block." For years the second floor was used as a dance hall and lodge rooms. The Central Labor Union at one time occupied rooms there. In March, 1899, the building was partly destroyed by fire, but was soon repaired, since which time it has been occupied as a grocery store by Courtney & Co.

On the southwest corner of Sixteenth Street is a seven-story brick, extending the entire length of the block west, covering the entire half of a city block, including the old Karbach residence. It is owned and occupied by the J. L. Brandeis Company, the four upper floors being fitted for offices. This building was erected in 1906. In 1882, on a part of this property facing Sixteenth Street, was a frame fashionable boarding house, which was moved in 1896 to make room for the elegant headquarters erected by the Y. M. C. A., which in turn gave way for the present structure.

Before going west of Seventeenth Street it might be of interest to learn how and when this street, from Seventeenth to Twentieth, secured its present grade and the difficulties incident to it, which occurred in this way: In 1890, when I entered the city council, that part of the street was in such a wretched condition that it would have been difficult for a jack rabbit to climb the hill. It was not graded because of a failure on the part of the property holders to agree to a change from the original established grade, which if permitted to stand, would prevent it from becoming a business street. One of the first ordinances introduced by me in the council was one providing for a change of grade on that street. It contemplated a radical cut, more so than I expected to be able to secure, my purpose being a compromise grade. Pending the hearing on the ordinance I was met on Fifteenth and Farnam Streets by A. J. Hanscom, who then resided on Nineteenth and this street. He engaged in a tirade of abuse of me, shaking his famous walking cane in my face and creating a regular scene, claiming that my purpose was to ruin his property. My only reply was that if he and a few other of Omaha's barnacles and mossbacks were carted out to Prospect Hill cemetery, Omaha would soon be a progressive city. Finally, through the efforts of Dr. Geo. Tilden and Ed. Rosewater—both living on that street—I secured a compromise grade, the one the street now has, the street being graded in 1891, after which expensive business blocks took the place of both the large and small frame buildings that were located on the lots.

These changes may be evidenced by the remarkable improvements that have since taken place, as, where formerly stood the residences of Henry Punal and Ed. Rosewater on the south side between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets, there is now the Brandeis Theater, a six-story office and theater building, extending almost the entire length of the block. Added to this on the west end, formerly the Saunders lot, is the six-story Saunders & Kennedy block, used for offices and stores. While on the north side between the same streets, the entire block is built up solidly with creditable business buildings. On the northwest corner of Seventeenth Street, where, for years, lived Dr. Grossman in a two-story frame house, is now a five-story brick office and store building called the "Baird Block." The lots west of that are covered by brick stores. On the northeast corner is the Strand Theater.

On the northwest corner of Eighteenth Street is erected the Fontenelle Hotel, an eight-story brick and stone building, embracing the entire half of the block. It was erected in 1914 and opened to the public in February, 1915. It is one of the finest of its kind in the entire west, and was built at a cost of \$1,000,000. It was built by the Douglas Hotel Company, composed exclusively of Omaha capitalists, and is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

On the southwest corner of Eighteenth Street the Nebraska Telephone Company immediately after the grading of the street in 1891, erected its city and state headquarters, being a three-story building, and from time to time have been added other improvements, which at this writing gives the company a frontage extending the entire block to Nineteenth Street, all of which is solidly built up with brick buildings owned and used by the company; on those lots formerly stood the old A. J. Hanseom and N. B. Falconer homes.

The Omaha Club and the Masonic Temple are on Twentieth and this street.

Dodge Street.

Dodge Street was called after Grenville M. Dodge of Council Bluffs, Iowa, a man with a remarkable history both in military and civil life. He was a noted civil engineer and figured in the early construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. At this writing he is in poor health at his old home in Council Bluffs and is in his eighty-second year.

Dodge Street never built up very rapidly, it having shown little evidence of progress since 1880. Many of the old frame residences of that time have been converted into stores run on a small scale. The old landmarks on the corner of Eleventh Street are still standing. The one on the northeast corner, formerly the Elkhorn Valley House, owned and run by John Witrich in the early '80s, is now used as a cheap lodging house. The old Third Ward school house on the southeast corner has been used as the police headquarters, police court and city jail since 1898.

In 1914 a fire engine house was located on the northwest corner of Twelfth Street. A number of one-story brick stores were, in 1912, erected on the northeast corner of Fourteenth Street, on the ground where for years stood the Hagedorn residence. On the southeast corner stand a few one-story brick buildings erected by A. B. Huberman in 1882. The Odd Fellows' Hall at Nos. 1402-4-6 yet remains, it being the only old landmark left on the north side of that street to Fifteenth Street, the Union Pacific having bought all the ground from the Odd Fellows' Hall to Fifteenth Street, on which it erected, in 1910, its present sixteen-story headquarters building.

On the southwest corner of Fourteenth Street still stands an old landmark, a three-story brick. For years the third floor was used as a lodge and dance hall, known as Kuenne's Hall, and who of the many fathers and mothers in Omaha and other climes that have not danced in that old hall? I know I have, for it was at a dance held there in 1881 that I met my wife for the first time. The other buildings to the west of this are ones that have been there since Heck was a pup—the old A. J. Simpson carriage

shop, dating back to 1865, and the Frenzer Block, on the southeast corner of Fifteenth Street, since 1881.

On the northwest corner of Fifteenth Street stands the McCague Block, erected by the McCague Brothers in 1886, from which time until 1892 it was used in part by the McCague Bank. When the bank failed in 1892 it was taken over by an eastern syndicate and in 1912 was purchased by the Omaha Building and Loan Association, who are the present owners and part occupants. From 1879 to 1887 there stood on the ground an old frame building used as a livery stable and run by Jim McShane. The small one-story buildings west of it have been used for years for saloons and restaurants, except the Plunket Block, the upstairs of which is used as a hotel. On the northeast corner of that block and Sixteenth Street is the Neville Hotel, a six-story building erected and used for a hotel and stores.

On the southwest corner of Fifteenth Street is the old Post Office building, used since the completion of the new one as the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri. No changes have been made in the rest of the block west of this. The Arlington Block, built in 1884 by John A. Creighton and a few other old-time structures are still there. The Union Block, on the southeast corner of Sixteenth Street, a narrow five-story building, was erected in 1886. It is an office building, except the first floor, which for years was occupied by different loan companies.

On the southwest corner is a small two-story brick, surrounded by Hayden Bros. mammoth clothing house—it is wholly out of place, and for years the Haydens have sought to buy it, but have been unable to do so. For years it was used by a building and loan company, but since 1899 it has been a drug store run by Sherman & McConnell. The balance of the block west is taken up by Hayden Bros., except the corner on Seventeenth Street, which is owned by Judge Neville, and is vacant.

On the northwest corner is the Post Office, a beautiful building, which occupies the entire block, Sixteenth to Seventeenth, Dodge Street to Capitol Avenue.

On Seventeenth Street the Dodge Street hill begins or ends, as one would want to term it. There also ends, from a commercial standpoint, Dodge Street, and will remain so for future generations unless the Dodge Street hill is cut down.

Capitol Avenue.

Capitol Avenue has long been a disappointment to the property owners on that street. In 1880 it was exclusively a residence street, on which lived a very respectable class of people, some of them business men, others employees of the Union Pacific shops. Some of those cozy homes have been converted into

stores and others have given place to one-story bricks, peopled by women of disrepute. But few substantial buildings have been erected on the street since 1880, and none worthy of mention until one reaches Fifteenth Street, going west.

On the northwest corner of Fourteenth Street, at this writing (1915) stands the Billy Sunday Tabernacle, with Billy in full charge. During his five weeks' stay in Omaha nearly 200,000 people were admitted to this building, many of whom were temporarily converted by Billy's persuasive appeals.

On the north side of the street, from Fifteenth to No. 1520, the brick buildings located there were built in 1889 by W. R. Bennett, who occupied them until 1900, when he moved to Sixteenth and Harney Streets, the place now owned and occupied by Burgess-Nash Company. This corner was the former home of Dr. O. S. Woods.

The south side of the block from Fifteenth to Sixteenth Street has undergone but one change—a laundry has taken the place of Charley Mentor's old livery stable.

The Loyal Hotel, a six-story brick, is on the northeast corner of Sixteenth Street and Capitol Avenue. It was erected in 1908. The old Crounse Block, erected in 1883, still occupies the southeast corner.

Capitol Avenue is the broadest street in Omaha, and before paved General Manderson likened it to an unpaved prairie.

CHAPTER XLV.

LARGE FIRES IN OMAHA.

Fires From 1879 to 1916 (where the losses amounted to \$5,000 or over), including the Grand Central Fire of 1878.

Allen Bros. Co., June 17, 1899.....	\$121,000
Avery Building, Tenth and Leavenworth, June 9, 1903..	27,000
Allen Bros. Co, November 26, 1903.....	351,453
Atlas Oil Company, June 24, 1909.....	17,000
Asbestos Co. and Mid-West Cigar Co., Nov. 10, 1911....	11,039
Boyd Packing House, January 18, 1880.....	127,000
Boyd's Lard Refining department, August 9, 1884.....	50,000
Barker Block, November 5, 1886.....	44,000
Boyd Theater, October 2, 1893.....	
Baurberger & Co., May 9, 1892.....	13,000
Boston Store, February 3, 1894.....	175,000
Balduff, W. S., July 27, 1907.....	5,540
Baldrige-Wead Building, June 17, 1912.....	5,345
Churchill, Parker & Co., October 7, 1889.....	12,500
Clark Coffee House, December 4, 1894.....	35,000
Cady Lumber Company, January 16, 1907.....	5,430
C., St. P., Minn. & Omaha roundhouse, April 14, 1911....	28,800
Creighton University, May 8, 1911.....	32,624
Consolidated Tankline Company, February 5, 1889.....	12,000
Douglas Printing Company, January 4, 1902.....	16,000
Doup Manufacturing Company, December 5, 1904.....	16,000
Dietz Lumber Company, August 10, 1916.....	130,000
Davis, T. L. (barn), February 28, 1911.....	8,492
Davis, T. L. (building), July 31, 1911.....	35,400
Dunning Hardware Company, March 15, 1912.....	7,356
Exposition Theater, December 4, 1894.....	125,000
Eden Musee, March 6, 1892.....	10,000
Fairbanks, Morse & Co., November 6, 1902.....	32,000
Festner Printing Company, November 18, 1907.....	38,973
Frederickson (garage), April 2, 1910.....	17,777
Fairmont Creamery Company, October 30, 1910.....	105,936
Fitzgerald, F. J., February 4, 1912.....	6,083
Fanning & Moise, January 10, 1913.....	5,093
Grand Central Hotel, September 14, 1878.....	125,000
Gibson-Miller & Richardson, March 9, 1891.....	62,000
Goldsmith Furniture Company, November 21, 1892.....	36,000
Hill & Young, April 13, 1899.....	17,000
Halden Bros., June 3, 1906.....	195,500
Haney, J. H., April 55, 1908.....	9,796
Mrs. H. Hooper, U. S. Nat'l Bank, 16th and Farnam Streets, April 13, 1912.....	247,138

Howell Lumber Yards, April 29, 1891.....	10,000
Ish & Co., Drugs, November 11, 1881.....	40,000
Johnson & McLain, Planing Mill, February 15, 1907....	11,526
Johnson & Bilz, March 31, 1912.....	5,660
Kingman Implement Company, April 23, 1899.....	143,000
Karbach Block, January 7, 1909.....	29,503
Larkins, Dry Goods, March 13, 1890.....	11,000
Logies, A. R., January 3, 1889.....	33,000
Lininger-Metcalf Company, January 11, 1901.....	22,000
Mills & McCormack, July 26, 1880.....	20,000
Morse, A. D., February 16, 1884.....	30,000
Meyer, Max, January 16, 1889.....	38,000
Morse Shoe Company, October 13, 1894.....	70,000
Mercer Chemical Company, August 9, 1899.....	14,000
Midland Glass and Paint Company, August 8, 1903.....	59,130
Mercer Block (11th and Howard), January 28, 1905....	447,290
Martin (17th and Webster), June 28, 1907.....	6,900
Masonic Temple, July 3, 1907.....	7,800
Moline Plow Company, November 15, 1908.....	55,764
Maney Milling Company, April 3, 1910.....	75,000
Millard Hotel, January 23, 1911.....	7,231
Metropolitan Hotel, February 4, 1912.....	6,083
Missouri River Lumber Company, March 25, 1912.....	51,000
Mercer Building (11th and Howard), December 27, 1912.	28,366
Metz, Charles and Fred (garage), February 17, 1913....	8,029
McMahon & Abrams, January 25, 1883.....	65,000
Nash, Mrs. C. B., January 18, 1909.....	16,319
Nye-Schneider, Fowler Company, April 3, 1910.....	368,000
National Lumber Company, November 29, 1910.....	12,200
Nash, Mrs. Ed., March 14, 1912.....	7,350
Nash, E. W., April 24, 1912.....	23,570
Nebraska Fuel Company, October 2, 1912.....	31,194
Oscamp & Haines, September 16, 1889.....	12,000
Omaha Rubber Company, October 26, 1891.....	20,000
Omaha Planing Mill Company, November 1, 1890.....	10,000
Omaha Hardware Company, March 27, 1892.....	125,000
Orchard, Samuel, December 27, 1892.....	150,000
Omaha Printing Company, January 5, 1893.....	41,000
Omaha Tent and Awning Company, March 12, 1900....	37,000
Omaha Creamery Company, December 1, 1901.....	56,000
Orchard-Wilhelm Company, June 24, 1909.....	18,500
Polick, A., May 31, 1889.....	27,000
Patterson Block, March 21, 1899.....	8,000
Pavilion, Hanscom Park, February 1, 1893.....	12,000
Penfold & Co., October 26, 1907.....	18,931
Paxton Block, February 4, 1908.....	5,532
Poppleton Estate (Tenth and Farnam), January 9, 1913.	5,948
Prest-O-Lite Company, January 14, 1913.....	6,000
Rosenthal Furniture Company, May 16, 1891.....	28,000

Reese Printing Company, August 6, 1897.....	25,000
Reese Printing Company, September 12, 1898.....	62,000
Rosenberry Planing Mill, January 17, 1907.....	7,100
Reese Printing Company, August 24, 1910.....	6,772
Root Printing Company, November 21, 1911.....	66,348
Sloan & Johnson, January 1, 1887.....	30,000
Shiverick Furniture Company, August 21, 1892.....	32,000
Shiverick Furniture Company, June 3, 1893.....	-----
Street Car Barn, February 8, 1891.....	55,000
Swift & Co., Ice House, June 5, 1907.....	13,650
Schlitz Hotel, June 15, 1907.....	20,760
Sunderland Bros., March 18, 1909.....	9,500
Stroud Manufacturing Company, April 5, 1912.....	51,000
U. P. Store House, November 26, 1902.....	15,000
Undeland Barber Supply Company, June 8, 1911.....	23,000
Vogel Realty Company, January 29, 1912.....	6,525
Willow Springs Distillery, December 7, 1880.....	40,000
Wakefield Lumber Company, June 25, 1893.....	55,000
Western Tinware Manufacturing Company, April 6, 1911..	12,298
Dewey Hotel, February 28, 1913.....	47,000
Atlas Oil Company, April 25, 1913.....	12,252
National Refining Company, May 12, 1913.....	27,089
Bell Drug Company, June 1, 1913.....	10,137
Exel Grant (livery), June 9, 1913.....	5,850
Tracy Bros., June 15, 1913.....	6,663
Burgess-Granden Company, August 7, 1913.....	82,169
Independent Harvester Company, September 27, 1913....	9,906
Prest-O-Lite Company, November 6, 1913.....	5,000
Meyer Brookstein and others, January 6, 1914.....	14,589
Louis Nash, March 23, 1914.....	28,961
L. G. Doup, August 27, 1914.....	24,012
Grossman & Goldstein, October 7, 1914.....	5,797
Smith Brick Company, November 16, 1914.....	9,770
Sherman-McConnell Drug Company, November 22, 1914..	23,326
Margolin Bros. (livery), January 11, 1915.....	6,109
Omaha Board of Trade Company, February 16, 1915....	108,399
Omaha Water Company (Walnut Hill), March 15, 1915..	9,306
Mercer Building, June 15, 1915.....	11,995
David Melville, July 29, 1915.....	5,792

- In 1880 there were three fire stations and sixteen men (paid). The rest were volunteers. There were three hose wagons with four men each and one hook and ladder truck with four men.

In 1915 there are 282 men, all paid, including the chief, assistant chiefs, master mechanic and secretary of department.

No fatalities from 1880 to 1890, though there were many disastrous fires.

In 1891 Captain M. F. Carter was killed when a fire occurred in the Paxton Hotel, which started in the annex. Captain Carter was killed by falling walls.

On June 3, 1893, Captain Chas. D. Cox, hose company No. 7, and Fireman John P. Oury, same company, were killed at the Shiverick fire.

October 2, 1893, Fireman Alfred C. Gyreum, hook and ladder company No. 1, was killed at the Boyd Theater fire, Fifteenth and Farnam Streets. His body was found in the ruins the next day.

On March 24, 1899, in the New Patterson Block, Seventeenth and Douglas Streets, three women met death by jumping from the windows of the third floor to the street. The building was not badly damaged. I recall, as one of the dead, Mrs. Jake Shammel.

June 18, 1899, at the Allen Bros. fire, Lieutenant Ruane, hook and ladder company No. 3, was killed when 400 pounds of gunpowder exploded. Ten others were frightfully burned, but not fatally.

August 10, 1899, four men were electrocuted by having the ladder on one of the trucks come in contact with a live wire in the alley back of the Mercer Chemical building. These men were Otto Gesike, James Adams, Charles Hopper and George Benson.

November 26, 1903, four men were killed at the Allen Bros. fire, which occurred early that morning. Death was caused by falling doors. Those who died were Lieutenant Burmeister and Firemen LeRoy Lester, H. C. Goldsborough and William Barrett, all members of engine company No. 2.

William Flood was killed by a horse falling on him July 13, 1892.

Eli King was killed by falling from a hook and ladder truck going to a fire on December 29, 1894.

The chiefs of the fire department from 1880 to 1916 were as follows: John H. Butter, Jack Galligan, ——— Riddle, Charles A. Salter, the present chief.

In this connection it might be stated that the Omaha Fire Department is one of the most efficient and up to date of any in the United States. Much of this credit is due to Chief Salter and his able staff of assistants, coupled with a force of well trained and well disciplined, courageous firemen.

CHAPTER XLVI.

POSTMASTERS.

Postmasters who have served in Omaha from 1879 to 1916:

Thomas F. Hall, appointed March 16, 1877. ✓
 Charles H. Coutant, appointed July 9, 1883.
 Constantine V. Gallagher, appointed March 30, 1887.
 Thaddeus S. Clarkson, appointed October 1, 1890.
 Euclid Martin, appointed February 12, 1895.
 Joseph Crow, appointed March 11, 1899.
 Henry E. Palmer, appointed January 22, 1904.
 B. F. Thomas, appointed February 16, 1908.
 John C. Wharton, appointed February 28, 1912.
 Charles E. Fanning, appointed July 7, 1916, present incumbent.

Assistant postmaster, James I. Woodard, appointed June, 1882, the present incumbent, in continuous service.

ATTORNEYS.

In 1880, upon my arrival in Omaha, I found the following named practicing attorneys:

Geo. W. Doane	E. Wakely	Chas. H. Brown
Chas. A. Baldwin	Simon Bloom	Chas. Redick
Geo. W. Ambrose	Geo. B. Lake	Albert Swartzlander
N. J. Burnham	A. N. Furgeson	E. F. Smyth
J. W. Savage	James Neville	W. J. Connell
John I. Redick	General Strickland	B. E. B. Kennedy
C. S. Chase	J. M. Woolworth	J. J. O'Connor
W. O. Bartholomew	Howard B. Smith	Watson B. Smith
J. I. Gilbert	T. W. T. Richards	Gen. Geo. M. O'Brien
John L. Webster	Edmond M. Bartlett	A. J. Poppleton
Geo. A. Pritchard	Gen. John C. Cowin	Henry D. Estabrook
Experience Estabrook	Richard Hall	Clinton Briggs
John M. Thurston	C. F. Manderson	

Of those, the only ones living and engaged in the practice of law today, are Connell, Webster, Cowin, H. B. Smith, Kennedy, O'Connor, Neville and Bartlett.

Those who came since and have died are:

Wm. Claire	W. C. Ives	Jos. H. Blair
Andrew Bevins	Herbert Levitt	M. S. Bouma
Chas. Ogden	R. B. Montgomery	Ralph W. Breckenridge
Gene Montgomery	H. E. Palmer	Otis Balue
C. R. Scott	W. S. Shoemaker	James P. English
M. R. Hopewell	Frank W. Wissels	Jos. Carr
Martin Langdon	L. W. Launsbury	C. J. Green
Frank E. Brown	I. R. Andrews	John D. Howe
Harry E. Burnham	J. A. Beck	Wm. Bowman
Chas. E. Clapp	Clinton N. Powell	Thos. F. Lee
Louis D. Holmes	Geo. Jeffries	J. W. Little

Chas. E. Morgan
W. S. Poppleton
D. Van Elton
B. F. White
J. N. Baldwin
Chas. Offutt
Wm. Stowe
Herbert J. Davis

Edw. R. Duffy
Geo. Townsend
C. F. Breckenridge
Wm. D. Beckett
John T. Cathers
Frank Heller
Judge Munger

John M. Thurston
W. R. Kelley
W. A. Messick
F. E. Munn
W. A. Saunders
C. H. Von Mansfeldt
Max Kuhn

Those now practicing before the Douglas County bar are:

L. I. Abbott
Jas. H. Adams
Ray J. Abbott
F. A. Agnew
F. W. Anheuser
Hermann Aye
C. J. Baird
Wm. Baird
E. A. Baird
Benj. S. Baker
Arthur E. Baldwin
John N. Baldwin
C. H. Balliett
A. K. Barnes
P. J. Barrett
Chas. Battelle
John W. Battin
W. L. Baughn
Irving F. Baxter
M. L. Beckwith
J. E. Bednar
C. F. Benjamin
Freemont Benjamin
J. A. Bennewitz
Louis Berka
Geo. Bertrand
A. H. Bigelow
T. W. Blackburn
E. N. Blazer
H. G. Boesche
J. J. Boucher
H. H. Bowes
E. L. Bradley
Thos. E. Brady
J. J. Breen
John P. Breen
Mary Brennan
Geo. W. Briggs
C. W. Britt
F. A. Brogan
Clinton Brome
H. C. Brome
Narris Brown
E. S. Brumbaugh
A. F. Brungardt
C. C. Buchanan
B. G. Burbank
J. O. Burger
J. Q. Burgher
Donald J. Burke
E. R. Burke

A. H. Burnett
Wm. Burton
Harry S. Byrne
John H. Caldwell
Jos. Carr
W. N. Chambers
Byron Clark
A. S. Churchill
Geo. Christofferson
Wm. J. Coad
H. E. Cochran
Raymond T. Coffey
E. A. Conway
I. E. Congdon
Herbert J. Connell
W. J. Connell
C. F. Connolly
Jas. F. Connelly
Julius S. Cooley
Geo. W. Cooper
John W. Cooper
W. A. Corson
Sam'l O. Cottner
Geo. W. Covell
Guy Cox
J. C. Cowin
Thos. D. Grane
Bryce Crawford
Frank Crawford
L. F. Crofoot
Raymond Crossman
Jos. Crow
M. O. Cunningham
Thos. Curran
H. S. Daniel
Geo. Day
L. B. Day
W. A. DeBord
W. H. DeFrance
C. W. De Lamatre
H. C. De Lamatre
J. O. Detweiler
C. T. Kickinson
J. T. Dillon
W. A. Dilworth
T. A. Donohue
M. L. Donovan
Wymer Dressler
G. M. Drew
F. W. Driscoll
C. L. Dundey

R. H. Dunham
I. J. Dunn
J. L. Dysart
T. B. Dysart
W. D. Eakin
Fred Eastman
W. D. Easton
Willard Eddy
Alfred Eggers
W. A. Ehlers
C. S. Elgutter
A. G. Ellick
Lee S. Estelle
E. T. Farnsworth
E. R. Ferguson
W. S. Finlayson
Harry Fischer
Allen G. Fisher
D. A. Fitch
F. W. Fitch
J. M. Fitzgerald
H. B. Fleharty
W. C. Flor
Chas. E. Foster
W. A. Foster
Jas. B. Fradenburg
W. C. Fraser
H. J. Freytag
Chas. L. Fritcher
W. G. Fuller
F. H. Gaines
H. H. Genau
W. D. Griffin
W. M. Giller
Geo. F. Gilmore
S. I. Gordon
Chas. A. Goss
John Graham
Jos. P. Gray
Julius L. Greer
A. H. Gross
J. H. Grossman
W. F. Gurley
L. F. Hale
Chas. Haffke
L. L. Hall
M. A. Hall
C. W. Haller
J. W. Hamilton
H. H. Harper
G. F. Harrington

M. F. Harrington
 Silas A. Harris
 Vincent Hascall
 W. H. Hatteroth
 F. A. Bebenstreet
 W. C. Heelan
 Ames E. Henley
 R. E. L. Herdman
 W. H. Herdman
 C. E. Herring
 E. C. Hodder
 E. D. Hogan
 Yale Holland
 T. A. Hollister
 Geo. Holmes
 P. E. Horan
 D. Horrigan
 Richard Horton
 Wm. Horton
 Wm. J. Hotz
 Warren Howard
 John D. Howe
 F. S. Howell
 C. L. Hover
 W. W. Hoyer
 Lyle Hubbard
 Richard Hunter
 Leo Inechen
 J. A. Jacobsen
 Wm. Jameson
 A. B. Jaquith
 A. W. Jefferis
 Chas. A. Jensen
 Alvin Johnson
 O. E. Johnson
 O. W. Johnson
 R. N. Johnson
 Will N. Johnson
 D. L. Johnston
 J. L. Kaley
 Carl C. Katleman
 Thos. J. Keenan
 J. E. Kelby
 J. B. Kelkeny
 C. B. Keller
 G. D. Keller
 B. E. B. Kennedy
 J. A. C. Kennedy
 J. L. Kennedy
 Geo. Keyser
 Guy Kiddoo
 W. R. King
 A. J. Kinnersley
 J. C. Kinsler
 A. L. Knabe
 Leslie Kranz
 John C. Kruger
 Ralph Kryger
 C. H. Kubat
 John Kuhn
 W. C. Lambert
 J. L. Lappert
 F. V. Lawson

M. L. Learned
 E. F. Leary
 E. R. Leigh
 Chas. Leslie
 A. P. Lillis
 J. B. Lindsey
 N. H. Loomis
 W. T. Loomis
 Carrol J. Lord
 J. M. Lovely
 Thos. Lynch
 Wm. P. Lynch
 J. H. Macomber
 J. Macfarland
 J. G. MacVeigh
 R. M. Madden
 Geo. A. Magney
 Loyd Magney
 T. J. Mahoney
 Carl Malm
 Fred Marconnit
 Chas. Marley
 Arthur Marrowitz
 E. M. Martin
 Paul Martin
 C. B. Matha
 E. K. Matson
 T. H. Matters
 Thos. Matters
 E. P. Mathews
 Henry Maxwell
 Albert E. May
 Geo. Meiklejohn
 D. W. Merrow
 Geo. Martin
 H. G. Meyers
 Henry X. Monsky
 C. S. Montgomery
 John A. Moore
 Harley Moorhead
 H. G. Moran
 John O. Moran
 W. T. More
 Ed. F. Morearty
 Nye Moorehouse
 Nelson A. Morgan
 Francis Morgan
 John F. Moriarty
 B. H. Morrison
 E. T. Morrison
 H. W. Morrow
 Edgar Morsman
 Harland Mossman
 F. A. Mulfinger
 Arthur F. Mullen
 John C. Mullen
 A. H. Murdock
 H. C. Murphy
 T. B. Murray
 H. A. Myers
 C. J. McCaffrey
 J. M. McCarthy
 Fred McConnel

F. L. McCoy
 Hugh McCulloch
 Chas. McDonald
 E. G. McGilton
 P. E. McGovern
 Jas. McGuckin
 T. J. McGuire
 W. D. McHugh
 J. A. McKenzie
 A. A. McLaughlin
 G. F. McLaughlin
 J. G. MacVeigh
 Robt. Neely
 John Negley
 Robt. A. Nelson
 Elmer Neville
 Jas. Neville
 L. Ross
 T. J. Nolan
 Moses P. O'Brien
 J. J. O'Connor
 Jas. O'Hara
 T. J. O'Keefe
 D. J. O'Leary
 R. H. Olmstead
 Jas. L. Padnos
 E. C. Page
 Arthur Palmer
 Harry Palmer
 J. P. Palmer
 A. C. Pancoast
 J. W. Parish
 R. W. Patrick
 W. R. Patrick
 D. C. Patterson
 L. O. Perley
 H. P. Peterson
 L. J. Piatte
 H. J. Pinkett
 Clifford Powell
 N. C. Pratt
 Geo. W. Pratt
 Jno. E. Quinn
 J. E. Rait
 Wm. C. Ramsey
 Wm. L. Randall
 J. B. Randolph
 F. T. Ransom
 J. Rapp
 Anon Raymond
 G. R. C. Read
 J. H. Ready
 John Reagan
 O. C. Redick
 W. A. Redick
 E. S. Redick
 C. C. Redwood
 Edson Rich
 J. A. Rine
 J. D. Ringer
 M. R. Risdon
 A. S. Ritchie
 S. Robins

J. W. Rogers
 H. N. Rogers
 E. J. Robins
 B. N. Robertson
 Hugh Robertson
 Jesse Root
 Halleck Rose
 Arthur Rosenblum
 Reno Rosenfield
 Stanley Rosewater
 W. R. Ross
 S. R. Rush
 W. H. Russell
 Wayne Sawtell
 B. W. Scandrett
 W. A. Schall
 J. M. Schaupp
 J. W. Schopp
 E. H. Scott
 Amos Scruggs
 S. A. Searle
 C. W. Sears
 W. G. Sears
 Carl T. Self
 I. W. Setz
 H. W. Shackelford
 Wm. A. Shaw
 J. A. Sheean
 D. H. Sheehan
 Geo. W. Shields
 Chas. Sheppard
 Roland Shields
 Robt. Shields
 F. A. Shotwell
 A. V. Shotwell
 E. W. Simeral
 Wm. Simeral
 S. W. Smith
 C. J. Smythe
 W. W. Slabaugh
 L. R. Slonecker

Edward Simon
 E. A. Smith
 E. P. Smith
 C. E. Smith
 H. H. Smith
 H. B. Smith
 H. S. Standeven
 Asel Steere, Jr.
 Will Sternberg
 W. G. Stewart
 W. S. Stillman
 J. F. Stout
 H. A. Sturgis
 Geo. Sugarman
 M. L. Sugarman
 E. D. O'Sullivan
 J. J. Sullivan
 L. Sullivan
 A. L. Sutton
 J. B. Sweet
 R. M. Switzler
 W. Switzler
 N. O. Talbot
 C. H. Taylor
 A. A. Tenopir
 L. J. TePoel
 Amos Thomas
 B. F. Thomas
 D. L. Thomas
 Elmer E. Thomas
 W. P. Thomas
 W. E. Thompson
 W. H. Thompson
 Arthur Thomsen
 Geo. Thummel
 John M. Thurston
 A. L. Timblin
 J. C. Travis
 C. T. Trimble
 A. C. Troupe

G. M. Tunison
 Geo. Turkington
 M. S. Turner
 J. H. Van Dusen
 R. A. VanOrsdell
 D. M. Vinsonhaler
 J. E. Von Dorn
 Jos. Votava
 A. C. Wakeley
 W. F. Wappich
 J. D. Ware
 E. J. Waters
 John Wear
 F. L. Weaver
 Robt. Webb
 J. L. Webster
 J. W. Weingarten
 H. A. Whipple
 T. F. Wiles
 S. L. Winters
 E. M. Wellman
 P. A. Wells
 A. R. Wells
 Ralph West
 E. H. Westerfield
 J. C. Wharton
 Ray H. Wise
 F. H. Woodland
 J. W. Woodrough
 O. E. Woods
 C. C. Wright
 Carrol Wright
 Frank Yates
 J. W. Yeager
 J. O. Yeiser
 R. G. Young
 W. W. Young
 I. Ziegler
 I. Ziegler
 J. J. Zitnick

THE OMAHA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.

Few, if any, enterprises in Omaha have grown more rapidly and had such a healthy and substantial growth as the Omaha Electric Light and Power Company. It was my pleasure to have been an invited guest at the small banquet held in 1885 to celebrate the opening up for business of this new enterprise. The plant was located in the building at No. 103 North Eleventh Street, and about twenty men constituted the entire force of the works. John Reagan, a suave and polished Irishman, was both the president and sole manager of this new enterprise.

For some time the venture was not a paying proposition, which fact could not be entirely attributed to the management, as the use of electricity was new and untried in Omaha, and the people wholly ignorant of its great power and usefulness. The

company in 1889 was sold to the Thompson-Houston Electric Company, an organization more progressive and better financed. S. L. Wiley was chosen as the first president of the company and under his management almost immediately began to broaden the scope of its work and secure new business. As a result of this development a new and much larger plant was erected at Fourth and Jones Streets in 1889. The city council granted the company the right to construct a system of electric light conduits in the city of Omaha in 1902.

The latter part of 1889 the company secured the first contract for street lights, providing for 100 arc lamps at \$175 per lamp per year, this service being furnished the following summer.

In the month of May, 1890, the first motor was connected to its lines for operating a printing press, the capacity of the motor being three horsepower. Power was then sold on a straight rate basis, lighting service furnished on a meter basis and the maximum rate was 23 cents per kilowatt hour. At that time there were fewer than 100 customers. Today there are 27,000 customers, with energy exceeding 25,000 horsepower in connected motors.

In 1903 the name of the company was changed to the Omaha Electric Light and Power Company. With the change in name also came a change in the management, Fred A. Nash being made president of the new company. In 1906 the city council of Omaha submitted to the people a proposition to vote an issue of bonds for the purchase of the properties owned by the company. The measure was voted on, but had few supporters and was overwhelmingly defeated.

On the death of Mr. Nash in 1914 he was succeeded by Gen. George H. Harries, who, like his predecessor, soon won the respect and good-will of the people of Omaha, for fair dealing and an ardent desire to satisfy the wants of the people. He is at present the president of the company, and is loved and respected by the many employees of this enormous concern.

H. A. Holdrege, general manager of the company since January 1, 1904, is the son of G. W. Holdrege, manager of the Burlington railroad for the past forty years. He received his early education in Omaha and for seven years was connected with the Chicago Telephone Company, having reached the position of district manager at the time he resigned. Just prior to assuming his present position, he was manager of the Citizens Gas and Electric Company of Council Bluffs.

One of the oldest employees, in point of service, in the company is S. E. Schweitzer, who has been continuously connected with the office management since 1889, during most of which time he has occupied his present position as secretary-treasurer.

I. B. Zimman, contract agent, became connected with the company in June, 1902. He has devoted practically all of his time toward a development of the field for new uses of electric service, involving many extensions of the company's line, all of which contributed in a general way to the rapid development of the city's progress. He has been responsible, from time to time in the past, for the bringing of a number of new enterprises to Omaha.

In this connection I am pleased to be in a position to truthfully and knowingly state that this is one of the very few, if not the only, public service corporation in Omaha that has never meddled in politics, or sought to dictate the selection of our public officials, or control their action in matters in which the interest of the company was at stake.

CHAPTER XLVII.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF OMAHA.

In 1880 the police force of Omaha consisted of eighteen patrolmen and a chief, then called city marshal, who at that time was Ben Westerdahl. There were no patrol wagons or patrol boxes, prisoners being led from the place of arrest to the then station in the basement of the old Court House, where now stands the Paxton Block. All policemen, including the marshal, were appointed by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the city council, it being no unusual thing to have an entire new police force following the election of a new mayor and council, as the police force was the reward of the faithful ward heelers, regardless of physical, intellectual or moral fitness for the position; in fact, it was but a political football.

This condition of things continued until May, 1887. The legislature of that year having amended the city charter so as to create a board of fire and police commissioners for this city, placed the appointive power in the hands of the governor. This commission consisted of three citizens of Omaha, and presumably non-partisan. Governor Thayer appointed as the first commissioners George I. Gilgert, Howard B. Smith and L. M. Bennett. On convening, the board formulated its rules, and from the old regime selected and retained the following names: Duff Green, captain; Al. McCracken, detective; S. D. Osborne, patrol driver, and the following as patrolmen: John Savage, Frank Walker, Dan McBride, George Rayworth, George Mahew, Al. Ward, Mike Kisanee, Toney Vanous, P. F. Havey, Ed. Scanlan, and later on, W. S. Seavey as chief of police. The following were dismissed from the force: Dan Kennedy, Dan Shannahan, Tom Pieronette, J. J. Donovan, Jim Boyle, Pat Gilligan, Dick Burdish and Jerry O'Grady. In addition to the first named, a number of others were retained. The city council refused to recognize the new board or to place the names of those selected on the payroll. The ones dismissed by the board would not give up their key or star, but reported regularly for duty. The Evening World, through its owner, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, took up the fight in behalf of the board, and a number of citizens contributed the sum of \$25,000, placing it in McCague's Bank, from which the board's appointees should receive their pay pending a hearing on the legal status of the controversy. On July 31, 1887, the officers who had been refused their pay by the council employed W. J. Connell as their attorney and instituted suit in the justice court of Gustave Anderson. After some parley on the part of John L. Webster, city attorney, and Mr. Connell, Mr. Webster confessed judgment and the council allowed the men's pay and recognized the board. The discharged men who had for two

months been steadily reporting for duty received no pay. During the first five years of the governor-appointed fire and police board our police and fire department attained an efficiency never equaled in its history. The men were appointed and promoted because of their qualifications and through no political pull or their subservieny to the financial and personal interests of the Powers That Be.

The demoralization of this department began in 1893, when the legislature of that session passed what was known as the "Churchill Bill," taking the appointive power out of the hands of the governor and vesting it in the secretary of state, attorney general and land commissioner, who appointed Paul Vanderfort, P. W. Burkhauser and J. B. Foster. Vanderfort and Burkhauser had arrived at that stage where they became political discards, each filled with venom and spleen. Mr. Foster gave little or none of his time to the board's affairs, his position as superintendent of Swift's Packing House requiring his sole attention. That board did more to sow the seeds of dissension in this department than any other agency in its history. Capable officers were demoted and incompetent ones promoted for no other reasons than that of satisfying the whims of an incompetent board. This board was succeeded by a number of others, some of whom corrected many of the abuses that had crept in during previous administrations.

Taking our police force as a whole during the past twenty years, it would and does compare favorably with any like body of men in the United States. Abuse is and always will be heaped upon the police of every large city, both by the press and the people, much of which is unjust and unmerited. The average patrolman, if left to act on his own good judgment, would detect more crime and convict more lawbreakers in one week than he now does in one year. In this he is hampered and restricted by his superior officers, who in turn have instruction from those higher up to wink at law violations. This condition of things is to be regretted, but it seems there is no relief for it, at least there has been no relief during the past decade or more, and when a change will come God alone knows. Where the fault lies I am unable to say, for if one will take the personnel of the men on the present force you will find them to be capable, honest and efficient, in fact, good citizens. As to the heads of that department, where could one find men possessing these qualities more so than Chief Henry Dunn, Captains Dempsey and Heitfeld? The sergeants and detective force are all men of good repute and fully capable.

As to the men constituting the so-called "moral squad," no fault can be found with them if left to their own judgment, but the name is but a travesty on the word "moral." In my opinion the services of this so-called moral squad could be dis-

pensed with, and the men constituting it could be assigned to duties more remunerative to the taxpaying public. They are but spies to ferret out bootleggers, not with a view of suppressing the illicit sale of liquors, but "to locate them," for purposes better known to those "financially interested"—kind of Irish setters, as it were. In short, no police force is demoralized from within, but from without, not by or through the men that wear the star, but men in citizen's clothes, not officially connected in any manner.

Chief Henry W. Dunn.

Chief Henry W. Dunn was born in Aurora, Ill., in 1862 and came to Omaha in 1878. His first employment was that of a boilermaker's helper at the Union Pacific shops, where he remained until 1887. He was then made paving inspector for the city of Omaha, which position he filled until 1891, when he entered the police department, having first served as patrolman. His rises were in rapid succession from detective to chief of that department. In 1912, on the death of Chief Donohue, he was made chief—the position he now fills. My first acquaintance with Chief Dunn dates back to 1885, in the halcyon days of the old Knights of Labor, he being a member of the organization and the assembly of which I was master workman, No. 2845. In our social gatherings he did all of the singing, a latent gift which he has since remarkably displayed on numerous occasions. He is a sociable, genial, companionable gentleman, who goes about his business in an easy, unpretentious manner, free from display or ostentation. He has discharged every duty reposed in him with the same degree of general approval as that of his record as chief of police is fully verifying.

Captain Michael F. Dempsey.

Captain Michael F. Dempsey was born in Pennsylvania in 1857 and came to Omaha February 14, 1878. Upon his arrival he secured employment in the Omaha Smelting Works, remaining there but a short time, when he changed to the Union Pacific shops, where he stayed until 1883, when he left to work for the same company at its local freight office on Tenth and Marcy Streets. In 1885 he entered the police department and served as patrolman until 1888, when he was promoted to the detective force, having as his companion the late Chief of Detectives John Savage. He was made sergeant in 1899 and captain in 1912—the position which he now holds. Captain Dempsey is a man of unusually good judgment, a qualification which he has possessed during the thirty years or more that I have known him. He possesses the happy faculty of gaining and holding the confidence and good-will of his subordinates on the force, as well as giving general satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.

Sergeant Al. T. Sigwart.

Sergeant Al. T. Sigwart was born in Missouri in 1855 and came to Nebraska and Omaha in 1874. He was appointed on the police force of Omaha in 1882 and has filled every position from patrolman to chief with honor to himself and the department. In 1899 he was married to an Omaha lady, Mrs. George A. Bennett, widow of the late George Bennett (former sheriff of Douglas County). Mr. Sigwart is now sergeant of the traffic squad, and looks the picture of health and promise of a long life.

Captain Steve Maloney.

Steve Maloney was born in Lamont, Ill., May 3, 1865. He came to Omaha with his parents in 1866, was one of the first pupils at Creighton College, having among his classmates Hon. E. J. McVann and Hon. C. J. Smythe of this city. After leaving Creighton College at the age of sixteen, he secured employment with the Union Pacific railroad as "call boy" for train crews in the early mornings. His boss was that lovable old man, Harry Gilmore. At the age of seventeen he was given a job as switchman at \$75 a month. In less than a year he was made foreman of a switch engine at an increased salary. He remained with the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific roads until his appointment on the Omaha police force in 1903. His first assignment was that of patrolman. In the fall of that year he was appointed on the detective force, where he remained for four years. In September, 1912, he was made chief of detectives, the position which he now holds. Steve Maloney has been a much misunderstood and a much abused official. This in a measure is due to the grave responsibilities devolving upon the office of chief of detectives—his success merits no praise, his failures severe criticisms at the hands of an uncharitable press. Such, however, must be expected as it is the fate of every man in the United States filling a like position. Taking his record in this position as a whole, in justice to him it can be truthfully said that in the detection and conviction of criminals his record will equal any man's in a like position during the same time in any city in the United States.

Captain Henry Heidfeldt.

Henry Heidfeldt was born in Galena, Ill., in 1860 and came to Omaha in 1892. For two years he was in the employ of the Omaha Street Railway Company and in 1894 was appointed on the Omaha police force, where he served as patrolman until 1899, when he was changed to the detective force. In 1912 he was appointed junior captain, which position he now occupies. Mr. Heidfeldt is a quiet, unassuming man, who goes about his business without unnecessary display, never abusing the powers vested in him and free from that domineering trait usually exercised by

men in like position. He has an excellent record for efficiency and the exercise of good judgment during his long service on the force.

Michael Whalen.

Sergeant Michael Whalen began service on the Omaha police force in 1881 as a patrolman. Having served well and faithfully in that capacity, he was promoted to sergeant in 1883. The department was small at that time, there being but one captain and one sergeant. Sergeant Whalen remained on the force continuously with the exception of one year, that of 1894, when a board of fire and police commissioners, composed of bigots, removed him. He was reinstated by the board following that, and remained on the force, retaining his official title, until retired on a pension in 1910, after which he paid a visit to his native home in Ireland, where he died in 1912. Mike Whalen, as he was called, had more deserving friends than any officer that ever wore a star on our police force. I do not know of an enemy he ever had. If he had any it was not his fault, as he was kind-hearted, gentlemanly, generous and frank—an even-tempered and efficient officer and a good citizen, and to this day he is pleasantly enshrined in my memory.

Patrick Mostyn.

Captain Patrick Mostyn entered the police department of Omaha in 1883 as a patrolman. Having served in various capacities in the department, he was promoted to captain in 1891, serving in that capacity, with the exception of one year, when he, like Sergeant Whalen, felt the sting of bigotry and was let out, only to be reinstated by the following fire and police board, where he served with distinction and marked ability until the day of his death, October 30, 1910, at the age of fifty years. I knew Pat Mostyn as early as 1881, and have always been proud of the fact that I assisted him in his effort to secure a place on the police force, for no more competent and capable man ever held office in all the history of that department. I have had many dealings with him in his official capacity, and it would not be surprising that I should, having prosecuted and defended in more criminal cases than any other five lawyers combined in this state, and in all my dealings with him I found him one of the squarest, most conscientious police officials I have ever met. I have never known him to manufacture testimony in order to secure the conviction of an accused person. On the contrary, I have known him to give the accused every opportunity to assert his innocence. Patrick Mostyn's official record will live in hallowed memory so long as we shall have a police department in Omaha.

Omaha Police Department, December 31, 1915.

Henry W. Dunn, chief.	C. H. Van Deusen, detective.
Arthur J. Shields, secretary.	H. J. Nielsen, humane officer.
M. F. Dempsey, captain.	John Barta, special duty.
Henry Heitfeldt, captain.	J. S. Coffey, special duty.
Anton Vanous, captain.	H. A. Cunningham, special duty.
Stephen Maloney, chief of detectives.	Felix F. Dolan, special duty.
W. K. Marshall, desk captain.	J. J. Holden, special duty.
Andrew Pattullo, desk captain.	Frank Williams, special duty.
Michael McCarthy, desk sergeant.	J. A. Heil, emergency officer.
Wm. E. Smith, desk sergeant.	P. J. Rinn, emergency officer.
A. T. Sigwart, traffic sergeant.	Oliver Farrand, motorcycle officer.
P. F. Havey, sergeant.	L. G. Wheeler, motorcycle officer.
A. J. Samuelson, sergeant.	J. F. Byrnes, turnkey.
C. L. Madsen, sergeant.	Andrew Fahey, turnkey.
W. G. Russell, sergeant.	J. T. Murphy, patrol conductor.
E. B. Ferris, sergeant.	L. S. Thrasher, patrol conductor.
P. H. Dillon, sergeant.	Thomas Reidy, desk officer.
W. R. Wilson, court sergeant.	A. L. Troby, desk officer.
G. W. Allen, detective.	G. C. Armstrong, chauffeur.
Edward Brinkman, detective.	J. M. Baughman, chauffeur.
W. T. Devereese, detective.	Harry Buford, chauffeur.
J. T. Donohoe, detective.	B. F. Danbaum, chauffeur.
J. T. Dunn, detective.	Lee Fleming, chauffeur.
E. N. Fleming, detective.	Lester Warner, chauffeur.
J. K. Kennelly, detective.	M. E. Anderson, traffic officer.
D. J. Lahey, detective.	C. M. Chapman, traffic officer.
E. R. Morgan, detective.	W. D. Carney, traffic officer.
F. H. Murphy, detective.	William Hudson, traffic officer.
J. J. Pszanowski, detective.	Julius Mansfield, traffic officer.
D. C. Rich, detective.	S. D. Reigelman, traffic officer.
Frank Rooney, detective.	Dennis Steaderman, traffic officer.
W. H. Shoop, detective.	V. J. Voboril, traffic officer.
M. J. Sullivan, detective.	Philip Wentz, traffic officer.

PATROLMEN

James Acton	C. P. Fimple	J. R. McDonald
A. C. Anderson	R. E. Ford	John McDougall
H. S. Askwith	A. F. Franci	Andrew Malolepszy
F. S. Aughe	Fred Franks	S. L. Morris
T. A. Baughman	William Good	William Murphy
G. V. Belitz	Frank Goodrich	J. H. Neaman
F. W. Bitter	E. S. Goralski	W. G. Nichols
John Brady	George Goss	T. J. O'Connor
S. E. Brown	J. H. Graham	O. P. Peterson
F. F. Burchard	P. T. Hagerman	C. W. Pipkin
J. D. Byrnes	William Halterman	C. M. Plotts
C. J. Caldwell	H. L. Haney	A. A. Rich
Joseph Chaddock	William Heald	C. F. Rishling
P. P. Coffey	Nick Herbolich	E. O. Risk
A. G. Cooper	N. J. Hetland	E. C. Robey
Herman Creal	H. E. Jackson	M. P. Ryan
W. H. Cummings	C. A. Jensen	Nick Sanko
F. M. Dalton	C. D. Kimball	J. H. Schwager
Frank Damato	G. B. Knudtson	J. W. Shean
E. J. Delehanty	Oscar Knutson	A. J. Sinclair
J. J. Dudley	W. J. Krebs	E. J. Slizewski
S. E. Egan	Otto Lickert	Rosco Smith
G. J. Emery	F. L. McCabe	Carl Swenson
Arthur English	Alex McCleneghan	O. V. Thestrup

G. H. Thomas	W. J. Turner	L. L. Wade
Noah Tromas	Harry Ulmer	Charles Walker
O. H. Thornton	J. A. Unger	Charles Whalen
B. A. Thorpe	Joseph Vanderford	N. D. Woods
Ezra Timm	Anton Vanous, Jr.	G. S. Wright
Mrs. Ella Gibbons, matron.	Mrs. K. Drummy, policewoman.	

South Omaha Officers Who Became Members of Omaha Department June 21, 1915.

John E. Briggs, captain.	John Jackman, patrol conductor.
J. H. Carey, sergeant.	James Grace, patrol conductor.
James Sheahan, sergeant.	Michael Corcoran, turnkey.
Michael Gillin, detective.	George Stephens, turnkey.
A. J. Lipenski, detective.	

PATROLMEN

Joseph Ballew	John Gaughan	Thomas Quinn
Michael Burke	John Herdzina	John Scott
Bernard Cogan	P. R. Hiatt	Anthony Smith
William Coulter	C. W. Morton	Frank Spear
Philip Crosby	Joseph Potach	John Zaloudek
John Dworak		

CHAPTER XLVIII.

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE, 1913.

The most appalling catastrophe in all Omaha's history befell the city just before sunset on a beautiful Easter day, March 24, 1913. About six o'clock on that Sunday evening a tornado swooped down on the city, coming from the southwest, and tearing a path through to the northeast from two to three blocks wide and four miles long.

Starting in the best residence part of the city, hundreds of homes were smashed to pieces or broken to bits. Following the wind as swiftly as thought fire broke out and in the twinkling of an eye homes of happy, prosperous people were turned into piles of blazing debris, from which dazed and crippled victims of the storm god's wrath were dragged by rescuers. Others were taken out dead. It came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky and passed so quickly that people couldn't realize what had happened.

Street cars were blown from tracks and demolished while loaded on their way from town. The storm completely stopped all street car traffic, telephone and telegraph service and shut the city completely off from the rest of the world. Lighting service was also cut off, leaving the city in utter darkness. Mercury fell so rapidly that it was freezing cold before morning.

The property destruction ran into the millions. From the southwest corner of the city to the northeast, the horror of wreck and ruin, death and devastation swept through the palatial homes of the rich and the tiny frame cottages of the needy with equal, complete destruction.

It resulted in 185 deaths, to which should be added 7 in Ralston and 11 in Council Bluffs; injured 350; totally demolished 550 homes; partially wrecked 1,250 others; 11 churches, 8 schools, a number of small stores; rendered 2,500 persons homeless and destroyed or damaged property valued at \$5,000,000. The people and the city soon survived the shock, physically and financially, and no trace of its vengeance and wrath is now visible.

OMAHA DAILY PAPERS.

Omaha has three daily newspapers, the Bee, World-Herald and Daily News, of which I will class in the order of their seniority:

Omaha Bee—Founded by the late Edward Rosewater in 1871, having a morning and evening edition; in addition it issues an eight-page weekly, used mostly for legal advertising. The Omaha Bee has always been recognized as the leading republican paper

west of the Missouri, and one of the few of such organs in the west that stood loyal and steadfast to the nominees of the republican national convention in 1912, over which its present editor presided as temporary chairman. The paper is published in the Bee building. The greater part of the stock is owned by the heirs of the late Ed. Rosewater, and the balance by Omaha parties. It is ably edited by Dr. Victor Rosewater, son of the founder, with Theodore W. McCullough as managing editor; has a daily circulation of its evening edition of about 63,000, and a circulation much greater for its Sunday edition.

Omaha World-Herald—The Evening World was founded by Gilmert M. Hitchcock, now the senior United States senator from Nebraska, in August, 1885. In 1889 it was merged with the Omaha Herald, founded by Dr. Geo. L. Miller in 1866. It has a morning and evening edition. The stock of the corporation is mostly in the hands of Mr. Hitchcock, Mr. Henry Doorly, his son-in-law, and Wm. G. Crounse, his brother-in-law. This paper in politics is simon-pure democratic. It is ably edited by Harvey E. Newbranch, and for thirty years has been published at 1410-14 Farnam Street. Its new home—a palatial eight-story building—is in course of construction on the northwest corner of Fifteenth and Farnam Streets. Its morning circulation is about 70,000, its Sunday edition having a much larger circulation.

Omaha Daily News—The Omaha Daily News was established in 1899. It is one of many newspapers owned and operated by a syndicate—the Scripps-McRae Co.—and known as the Daily News Publishing Co. It was first located at 110-112 South Fourteenth Street. Mel. Uhle, formerly of Omaha, was its first general manager. In 1907 it moved to Seventeenth and Jackson Streets, where it is now located in its own magnificent quarters. In politics the Daily News is independent, yet an avowed champion of prohibition, with socialistic tendencies. At its start Joseph Polcar was managing editor. He has remained steadily with the paper, and on moving to its present place he was made editor, which position he is filling with remarkable ability. The paper issues an evening, noon and Sunday morning edition. It has a larger circulation than either of the other two dailies, being somewhere about 80,000.

THE AK-SAR-BEN.

The Ak-Sar-Ben is composed of a body of live, energetic men who have banded themselves together for the purpose of advancing and promoting the interest of Omaha in particular and the state of Nebraska in general.

It was organized in 1894, at the time of our worst financial crisis, when the entire west seemed to have been in the throes of financial ruin, coupled with repeated drouths. At the time

of its organization it was not the intent of its sponsors to make it permanent, but simply a slight, soothing tonic to entertain and cheer a depressed people. The experiment having proved such a huge success, it encouraged its promoters and stimulated their energies to the extent of renewed efforts, and upon a broader and more elaborate scale, in addition to maintaining its permanency. Each year its pageant, parade and carnival excels any previous effort and has assumed a proportion that has challenged the attention of the civilized world. As I write this article, I view its electric parade passing my window—with its magnificent floats, typifying agriculture and horticulture and the fables conceived in the brain of Washington Irving in his story of Coronado seeking the gold in the province of Quivera—the land of gold. The time devoted by its members in the preparation of this great pageant is considerable, all of which is given gratuitously and cheerfully. The work at the Den is usually started about the first of May each year, and from the opening to the crowning of the king and queen at the close of the festivities in October, is one continual round of pleasure, where sparkling wit, wet and dry humor, eloquence and pathos mingle in harmonious unanimity. May the annual visits of the king and queen of the province of Quivera never cease, and long live the Ak-Sar-Ben, which when interpreted means, “Nebraska” spelled backward, and may the shadows of its founders, Walter S. Jardine and Louis M. Rheame, never grow less.

CHAPTER XLIX.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES.

Simon Hoffmann.

Simon Hoffmann was born in Wurzburg, Bavaria, Germany, November 16, 1848, and came to the United States and to Omaha in 1872, where he was married to Miss Margaretha Gerhardt March 25, 1873. He died in Omaha January 5, 1891. Mr. Hoffmann was for more than a quarter of a century a teacher of music and leader of bands and orchestras in Omaha, and was beloved by all who knew him.

Emil Hoffmann.

Emil Hoffmann was born in Omaha December 12, 1873, was educated in the Parochial Catholic Schools of Omaha, after which he attended Creighton College from 1886 to 1891. After school hours and during vacations he played in the bands and orchestras with his father, Simon Hoffmann, assuming the duties and responsibilities of the father after his death and taking his place as leader of the various musical organizations to which they both belonged. He was married in Omaha August 12, 1893, to Miss Carrie Logier of this city. There were born to them three children—Emil, Clara and Margaret—all residing here and all possessed of the family heritage, "lovers of music."

Harry G. Cunsman.

Harry Cunsman was born August 24, 1862, in Omaha in a log cabin on the old Port Redman pre-emption claim, known as Forty-eighth Street and Redman Avenue. He was educated in the Omaha public schools, leaving the same at the age of seventeen to earn his own living. His first work was in the brick yard owned by Bailey & Hall, then located on what is now Twentieth and Clark Streets. In 1883 he was appointed railway mail clerk on the Union Pacific between Omaha and Cheyenne, Wyo., leaving this in 1887 to become deputy city clerk of Omaha, which position he occupied until 1892, when he then filled the office of deputy city treasurer of Omaha. He resigned that position in 1904 to engage in the storage and brokerage business. In 1912 he was elected county assessor and is the present incumbent of the office. His term will expire January 1, 1917. From this brief biography of Mr. Cunsman it will be seen that he has "made good," having struggled from boyhood to the present with but a grade school education, graduating as he did from the school of hard knocks. He was for two years deputy city clerk during my term in the city council, and in this, as in every other public

capacity in which I have known him to serve, he gave universal satisfaction. He is a natural born maker of friends and has the happy faculty of keeping them.

Dennis Cunningham.

Dennis Cunningham was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1843, and came to the United States in 1866, going direct to St. Louis, Mo. In 1868 he came to Omaha and engaged in the horse-shoeing trade, locating at the corner of Ninth and Farnam Streets, the then business center of Omaha, where he continued in business until 1873, then moved to Sixteenth Street, south of Dodge Street, where the Post Office is now located, remaining there until his property was purchased by Uncle Sam, since which time he has been engaged in the real estate business—at one time a partner of Thos. Brennan under the firm name of Cunningham & Brennan. In 1912 he retired from business, devoting his time exclusively to his private affairs. He was married in Omaha in 1869 to Miss Mary Winnehan. He purchased the lot occupied by him on the Post Office site for \$1,400 and sold it to the government for \$100,000. It is claimed the title to the property is still vested in him. He did the horse-shoeing for the government for a number of years and enjoyed the personal warm friendship of Generals Litchfield, Miles, Crook, Howard and Stanton. He has the record of being one of the most scientific horse-shoers in this country. Mr. Cunningham is a big, generous warm-hearted Irishman, a noble, progressive citizen, ready and willing at all times to assist and encourage the young man with ambitions. He is apparently good for many years yet, so it is hoped by his many friends.

Louis J. Piatti.

Louis J. Piatti was born in New York, N. Y., April 15, 1863, where he studied law and was admitted to the bar. He came to Omaha in February, 1890, and shortly afterward formed a partnership with an attorney named Capeck, which lasted for four years, when it was dissolved, Mr. Capeck moving to New York. Their offices were in the old Creighton Block, Fifteenth and Douglas Streets. In 1910 he was appointed by County Attorney James P. English as one of his deputies, which position he held during Mr. English's term of office, has since served three years under County Attorney Magney, and is now serving under that official. Mr. Piatti has made an excellent record as deputy county attorney, having been engaged in the prosecution of some of the most famous murder cases in the history of the county attorney's office and has had marvelous success. He is a rock-ribbed, uncompromising democrat, was one of the organizers of the Jacksonian Club of Omaha, and afterwards organized the Douglas County Democratic Club, now out of existence. He is at the

present time an important factor in the Dahlman Democratic Club. Mr. Piatti has never sought an elective office, but in 1896 was one of the Bryan electors from this state and is groomed as one of the Wilson delegates at the April primary. He is a polished scholar, a linguist and genial companion, with few, if any, enemies.

Henry C. Akin.

Henry C. Akin was born in Yartansburg, Pa., August 19, 1843, and has resided in Nebraska and Omaha for thirty-three years. He was educated in Chicago, moved to Kansas in 1862, served in defense of the state from Indians and guerillas and became assistant adjutant general of that state. Lived in Leavenworth from 1867 to 1879, went to Sioux City, Iowa, as general manager of the Northwestern Transportation Company, operating a line of steamboats on the Missouri River from Sioux City to Fort Benton, Montana. He came to Omaha in December, 1882; was in charge of clerical and financial affairs of Iler & Co. from 1882 to 1887, then became manager of the local offices of the Western Newspaper Union and later treasurer of the whole system. Was a member of the board of education for four years, one year its president. Went into the Post Office in 1900 and served until April 1, 1915, three years in the money order department, seven years as finance clerk and five years as cashier. Mr. Akin was the head of the Shriners in the United States and Canada as their imperial potentate from June, 1902, to July, 1903.

George W. Shields.

George W. Shields was born in Scotland in 1854. He came to Omaha with his parents in 1863, since which time he has resided here. He attended the Omaha schools, graduating from the high school in 1876, shortly afterward entering the law office of General John C. Cowin, with offices in the old Creighton Block, Fifteenth and Douglas Streets. Was admitted to the bar in 1879. In 1883 he ran for the state legislature, but was defeated by the small majority of twenty votes, by P. M. Mullen. He remained in the office of General Cowin until 1888, when he was elected county judge of Douglas County, where he served until 1892, after which he was a candidate for district judge. At that election he was defeated, owing to the tidal wave of A. P. Aism. In 1898 he was elected county attorney and served two terms. I am in a position to speak knowingly of Judge Shields' public record, as I had the very great pleasure of serving under him during three years of his term as county judge in the capacity of clerk of his court. I look upon those years as among the fondest recollections of my life, it being such a pleasure for one to have occasion to come in daily contact with a man so broad of vision, so pleasing in disposition and so honest and conscien-

tious as I found him to be. I have known personally every judge of that court from 1879 up to the present time, and while we have had many fine men who have discharged the duties of that office, yet I am confident of the truth of the statement when I say that none ever discharged their duties with less criticism and with as great a degree of universal satisfaction as did George W. Shields. As county attorney his record proved as creditable as was that of county judge. He is now engaged in the practice of law, having one of his sons as his law partner.

Walter S. Jardine.

Walter S. Jardine was born September 21, 1857, on a farm in Bucks County Pennsylvania. He came to Omaha March 21, 1869, where, in his own language, he went to work for old Tom Murray for "nothing a day." After a short time of service with him, he attended the Omaha public schools for one year. As a boy in 1869 he launched a scow to build the piers of the Union Pacific bridge. He also hauled the water to build the B. & M. railroad from Omaha to Plattsmouth and carried the bread to workers on the Northwestern from Omaha to Blair, Neb. For five years he was engaged in the express business alone, when in 1883 he purchased an interest in the Omaha Merchants Express Company, with whom he devoted his entire time up to March, 1912, then attended to personal affairs until May, 1915, when he was elected as one of the commissioners for the city of Omaha, a position which he now fills with distinguished ability as head of the department of public improvements. I have known Mr. Jardine intimately for thirty-four years. While a candidate for commissioner I wrote for the press some very strong letters endorsing his candidacy and predicted that in the event of his election he would display unusual ability. His record for the time he has served fully justifies my predictions. His term expires in 1918.

Dr. R. W. Connell.

Dr. R. W. Connell was born in Schron Lake, N. Y., in 1859. He came to Omaha April 25, 1894, was appointed city physician under Mayor Dahlman June 6, 1906, a position he holds at this writing, and which he has filled with great distinction. Dr. Connell is ranked as one of Omaha's very ablest doctors, has been and is now examining physician for many Omaha fraternal organizations, as well as being the physician of a large number of this city's very best families.

Joe B. Hummell.

Joe B. Hummell was born in Yankton, S. D., in 1862, came to Omaha at the age of six months, where he has resided ever since. He was educated in the Omaha public schools. His first

work was that of a building contractor, and from 1897 to 1906 he was street commissioner under Mayor Moores. In 1909 he was chosen as a member of the Omaha city council and in 1912 he was elected one of the commissioners of this city and re-elected in 1915. During his term as commissioner he has been at the head of the department of parks and public property, a position he has filled to the satisfaction of the people. His term expires in May, 1918.

Benjamin F. Thomas.

B. F. Thomas was born in Maquoketa, Iowa, in 1862. He came to Nebraska in 1891, entering the law office of the late Judge Martin Langdon shortly after his arrival. In 1893 he formed a partnership with Carl Wright, which law firm was known as Wright & Thomas until 1900, when Mr. Thomas was appointed city prosecutor of Omaha by Mayor Moores. He served nine years as a member of the board of education and was for three years its president. He was state senator from this county in the sessions of 1905-7. During the latter session he introduced into that body the famous terminal taxation bill, which became a law during that year. On February 16, 1908, President Roosevelt appointed him postmaster of Omaha, a position he held for four years, after which he was city manager of the Woodmen of the World, which position he is filling at this writing. Mr. Thomas is prominent in Masonic and other fraternal organizations. I have known him intimately from the day he came to Omaha, and am pleased to say that he has "made good." He has raised a large family and discharged with credit to himself and the public every trust reposed in him.

Thomas Harrington.

Thomas Harrington was born in Washington, D. C., in 1861, coming to Omaha by boat with his parents in 1866, landing at the foot of Farnam Street. While a young man, loitering around the Union Pacific railroad tracks he met with an accident which resulted in the amputation of one of his arms. He was in the employ of the Union Pacific road from 1881 to 1899, after which he was employed in various other capacities until 1909, when he became chief clerk in the city health department, which position he is now filling very satisfactorily.

M. L. Learned.

M. L. Learned was born in East Vernon, Vermont, February 19, 1866. Studied law under E. M. Bond at Northampton, Mass., for three years. Came to Omaha in July, 1888, where he entered the law firm of Kennedy & Barnard. This partnership lasted but a short time, when for years afterward it was known as

Kennedy & Learned. In 1893 he married Miss Mary Poppleton, daughter of A. J. Poppleton, and for the greater part of the time they have resided in their beautiful home just west of Florence. My acquaintance with him dates back to 1877, on the Fourth of July, at Holyoke, Mass., where I visited during that year. I saw little of him at that time and place and never expected to see him again. I was, however, surprised one day when in 1888 I met him in the county court, while clerk of that court. There we renewed an acquaintance that will last so long as we both shall live.

John C. Wharton.

The life and successful career of John C. Wharton, postmaster of Omaha, is an illustration of the possibilities lying ahead of any ambitious young man who develops a determination to win. He was raised on a farm in Illinois, poor in the usual sense of the word, and attended the public schools. Later he entered college, carrying off the honors of his class, being chosen as valedictorian. Graduating, he opened a law office and during the first year of his practice was elected states attorney of Mercer County, Illinois, where he was raised. After holding this office for eight years, Mr. Wharton came to Omaha in 1888 and began the practice of law, which he continued without interruption until about four years ago, when he was appointed to the office of postmaster. He is regarded as one of the most successful business and professional men in Omaha. His earnings were invested in large tracts of land, which have increased in value to such a degree as to have added materially to his wealth. When asked to state the secret of his success he said it was due in a large part to perseverance in business pursuits, fidelity to trusts reposed in him and to the temperate and moderate modes of life which he has always observed.

George A. Magney.

George A. Magney was born on a farm in Sciote County, Ohio, in 1858, and when eight years old came to Cass County, Nebraska, with his parents, where he assisted his father on the farm. He studied law in the office of Judge Sam Chapman at Plattsmouth, was admitted to the bar in 1882 and located in Papillion. In 1887 he came to Omaha, where he has practiced his profession ever since. He was twice nominated by the democrats and populists for judge of the district court, but was defeated. He was deputy county attorney under George W. Shields in 1902, and served under James English in the same capacity for four terms. Was elected to the office of county attorney in 1912 and re-elected for 1915-16. His family consists of his wife, two boys and one girl. Mr. Magney, in stature and general makeup, bears a striking resemblance to Abraham Lincoln, and is frequently called "Honest Abe." I never knew

Abe Lincoln, but from what I have heard and read about him I am confident that were he living he would not blush; though dead, his memory will be none the less revered because Mr. Magney is his prototype. By reason of my long and intimate acquaintance with him, I might and could liken him to George Washington because I have never known him to lie. He has no enemies, or at least should have none, for a man of his temperament and noble, generous manhood is deserving of the love and admiration of both man and beast. He is a true, brave, courteous and capable man, generous to a fault and his record as county attorney during the past four years is beyond the criticism of the most fastidious. He is a candidate to succeed himself at the election in 1916.

George Holmes.

George Holmes was born at what was afterwards known as South Omaha, Neb., on October 28, 1861, his parents having in 1858 homesteaded 160 acres of land at that place, securing the patent for it from President James Buchanan. In 1883 the South Omaha Land Company purchased the land and erected thereon a number of the present packing houses in addition to platting it into lots, now completely covered with residences. The family moving from the old homestead to Omaha, he attended the public schools here and the Rathbun Commercial College of Omaha. In 1888 he was elected justice of the peace and was re-elected in 1900, was admitted to the bar in 1891. From 1900 to 1904 he served as clerk in the office of the county treasurer of this county, since which time he has been engaged in the practice of law in Omaha. His family was among the first that I met after coming here. His parents were sturdy, honest, old-fashioned Irish, who braved the hardships incident to pioneer life. I am at all times delighted to meet Judge Holmes, as he is one of the very few people of Omaha with whom I can engage in conversation in the Gaelic or Irish language, which he and I speak fluently. He will be a candidate for municipal judge at the April, 1916, primary.

Patrick C. Heafey.

P. C. Heafey was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1857. Came to the United States and to Omaha in 1878. His first employment was as a laborer at the Union Pacific local freight house in Omaha. He was soon promoted to receiving clerk, which position he held until 1885, when he resigned to enter the undertaking business with P. J. Barrett, which firm was known as Barrett & Heafey and located at 216 South Fourteenth Street. This partnership lasted but two years, Mr. Barrett retiring from the firm, which was soon afterward known as Heafey & Heafey, P. C. and Morgan Heafey, brothers. This partnership is still in existence and doing business at Twenty-sixth and Farnam Streets.

Mr. Heafey served as a member of the fire and police board from 1898 to 1901, was elected county coroner in 1910, serving two years. He is now, and for more than ten years past has been, a member of the governor's staff. He was elected a member of the Omaha water board in 1912, and is still serving in that capacity; is a member of a number of fraternal organizations and is very popular, as he has a happy faculty of making and keeping friends, is charitably disposed and donates much for that purpose. He was a loyal friend and companion of the late Count Creighton. I have a very warm spot in my heart for Mr. Heafey, as he and I worked together as receiving clerks for the Union Pacific for two years, he acting as one of the two "best men" at my wedding. He is yet in the prime of life and carries with him that smile that never comes off. May he live long. Mr. Heafey is married, but has no children.

John A. Bruce.

John Bruce was born in Fredericksburg, Sweden, in 1875, and came to America and to Saunders County, Nebraska, with his parents at the age of four years, where they settled on the bleak prairie. He attended the public schools in his vicinity until nineteen years of age, when he entered the Luther Academy at Wahoo, graduating from there in 1896. After teaching in a country school for three years, he entered the University of Nebraska, where he graduated after four years. For a brief period he worked for the Illinois Central road as track apprentice at Memphis, Tenn. From there he entered the employ of the Mobile, Jackson & Kansas City railway as resident engineer, having complete charge of forty-eight miles of construction. In 1904 he returned to Nebraska and entered the employ of the Union Pacific road as assistant engineer on construction in Kansas, being transferred from there after a year's service to the position of maintenance engineer on the Wyoming and Colorado division, with headquarters at Cheyenne; from there to the "Moffat line" in Colorado in the capacity of assistant engineer on construction. In 1907 he moved to Omaha and entered the employ of the city, taking the position of engineer in charge of paving and sewers, remaining there until 1911, when he resigned and went into private practice. In August, 1915, he was appointed city engineer of Omaha, which position he now holds and fills with honor and distinction. He was elected a member of the Society of American Engineers in 1910. He was married in 1905 and has two children.

John Groves.

John Groves was born in Ireland and came to the United States and to Omaha in 1867. Shortly after arriving here he secured employment with the Union Pacific road as a clerk in

the master mechanic's office at the shops of that road in Omaha, which position he held until 1886, when he resigned to accept the office of deputy county treasurer of Douglas County under Henry Bolln. He remained there until 1890, when he was appointed city clerk, holding this appointive position for two years. When the office became elective he was elected for two years. He died in 1896, survived by his wife and two daughters. John Groves was a loyal, reliable, patriotic American, true to his family, his God, his country and his friends, yet a lover of his native land, a hater of oppression and tyranny and a sworn avenger of Ireland's wrongs.

Joseph W. Woodrough.

Joseph W. Woodrough was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 29, 1875, and educated at Dresden, Germany. He came to Omaha in 1893 and entered the law office of his uncle, Wm. D. Beckett, where he spent one year. Leaving here that year, he went to Ward County, Texas, where he was shortly afterward elected county judge at the age of twenty-two. In 1897 he returned to Omaha and engaged in the practice of law, and in 1899 he formed a partnership with Wm. F. Gurley and Ralph W. Breckenridge, the law firm being known as Breckenridge, Gurley & Woodrough. While a member of that firm he tried single-handed many civil and criminal cases that won for him a statewide reputation. In 1902 he was the democratic candidate for county judge of Douglas County, but was defeated by Charles Leslie, now judge of the District Court. In the campaign of 1912 he worked and organized day and night for the election of Woodrow Wilson for president. He is one of the most agreeable lawyers that I have ever opposed in the trial of a lawsuit, being pleasant and agreeable, both to the court and the opposing counsel. He is an able lawyer and had his party been in the majority in this district, he would long since have been on the district bench.

Patrick Ford.

Patrick Ford was born in Sligo, Ireland, May 12, 1841, and came to Omaha in 1877. He worked for two years at the Union Pacific shops, was appointed on the police force by Mayor James E. Boyd in 1881, serving two years in that capacity. In 1884 he was elected a member of the Omaha city council from the Third ward, serving continuously until 1891, when he retired to enter the hotel business. He served one term in the Nebraska legislature. I knew him from 1880 to the time of his death, both in private and public life, he serving one year in the council at the time I did, and I found him to be a man of unquestionable honesty. He died in 1904, survived by a son and daughter.

Thomas J. Flynn.

Thos. J. Flynn was born in Thorton, Mass., May 8, 1870, coming to Omaha in 1876 with his parents. He was educated in the Omaha grade schools and at Creighton College, after which he learned the plumbing trade, to which he devoted about eight years of his life. Entering politics, he soon forced himself to the front. In 1900 he was appointed deputy sheriff under John Power, serving in that capacity until 1902, when he was appointed jailer of Douglas County, which place he filled until 1906, when he ran for the office of sheriff, but was defeated by John McDonald. In 1907 he was appointed by Mayor Dahlman as street commissioner of this city, where he served until 1913, when Mayor Dahlman appointed him city clerk of Omaha, being confirmed by the city commissioners. This position he held until September, 1915, when he was appointed United States marshal of this state by the president for a period of four years. He conducted Mayor Dahlman's campaign each of the four times he was a candidate for mayor and when he ran for governor of this state. Tom Flynn has a happy faculty of making friends, as he is genial and companionable, possessing a superabundance of that Irish blarney which goes to make up a successful political leader. He has made good in every department in which he has embarked.

Sands F. Woodbridge.

Sands F. Woodbridge was born on a farm near Binghampton, N. Y., and was educated in the public schools of that city, coming to Omaha in 1879, where he secured employment as a reporter on the Omaha Herald, became city editor of that paper one year later and remained there until 1885, when he left to join fortunes with the World, then started by Hon. G. M. Hitchcock, where he was made city editor and also city editor of the consolidated papers when Mr. Hitchcock bought the Herald in 1889, which position he held for a score of years and is still connected with that paper. He is married and has five children. I first formed Mr. Woodbridge's acquaintance in 1884 during the presidential campaign of that year. I had made a number of political speeches then in support of the democratic ticket. He, being on the democratic Herald, was assigned the duty of reporting all the local meetings held by that party during the campaign. He was at my wedding as an invited guest, participated in all the entertainment of that occasion and wrote every detail of it for his paper. While nearly a third of a century has elapsed since our first meeting, yet time has never faded the high esteem in which I hold Sands Woodbridge, nor do I think it ever will so long as we both shall live.

Patrick Duffy.

Patrick Duffy was born in Ireland in 1859 and came to the United States and to Omaha in June of 1879. His first employment was with the Union Pacific railroad at its Omaha shops. Leaving that department in 1882, he entered the grocery business at Sixteenth and Webster Streets with Richard Downey under the firm name of Downey & Duffy, which partnership terminated in 1883, when he entered the wholesale liquor business, having as a partner Peter Connelly. In 1889 he started a wholesale and retail cigar business at 1619 Farnam Street and at 315 South Fifteenth Street, a business in which he is still engaged in addition to the undertaking business under the firm name of Duffy & Johnson. Mr. Duffy was married in 1885 and has three children. I have long held a warm spot in my heart for him, as he was one of the "best men" at my wedding, P. C. Heafey being the other. His reputation for honest and fair dealing has won for him the admiration and respect of all who have known him during his long residence in Omaha.

Josiah B. Redfield.

Josiah B. Redfield was born in Cavendish, Vermont, May 14, 1829. He came to Omaha in September, 1866, and for a number of years was engaged in the printing business here. For years the Redfield legal blanks were the standard in all the courts of this state. Mr. Redfield served as councilman-at-large from 1883 to 1885 and made an excellent record during his term of office. He was the father of Mel, who served two terms as county clerk; Jos. B., of the printing firm of Klopp, Bartlett & Co., and Jennie L., one of the most capable principals that ever served in our public schools. She is now and for years has been principal at the Castelar school. Mr. Redfield died October 31, 1901.

Thomas Lynch.

Thomas Lynch was born in Frontier County, Nebraska, in 1885; educated in the Omaha public schools, graduated from Creighton College in 1904 and the Georgetown Law School, Washington, D. C., in 1908. His father, the late Thos. Lynch of Hyanis, Neb., was well known to Omaha's old settlers back in the early '70s, when he aided in the construction of the "Overland Route." Mr. Lynch has practiced law in Omaha since 1908 and is ranked as one of the ablest as well as one of the most popular members of the Omaha bar. He was married to Frances, daughter of Mary Millet McCreary, one of Omaha's earliest settlers. They have three children. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Columbus.

R. B. Howell.

R. B. Howell was born in Adrian, Michigan, in 1864. Was educated in the public schools and left Adrian High School for Annapolis, entering in 1881 and graduating with the class of 1885. Resigned from the naval service two years later and entered upon the practice of his profession—civil engineering. Began his activities as an engineer in Detroit, Mich., and came to Omaha in 1888 as an engineer for the American Water Works Company of Illinois. Was an engineer connected with the Omaha water plant until 1889, then owned by the American Water Works Company of Illinois, when he went into the business of engineering and contracting for himself. Served as the first state engineer of Nebraska, and while serving in that capacity in 1895 was tendered the position of city engineer of Omaha, which he accepted. In 1896 he was appointed a member of the board of visitors of the United States Naval Academy by President Cleveland. Terminated service as city engineer in 1897. Re-entered the navy in 1898 during the Spanish-American war. Served throughout as a lieutenant in the West Indian campaign. At the close of the war re-entered his profession of civil engineering; subsequently in 1900 became interested in the real estate and insurance business of Carter & Howell and latterly known as R. Beecher Howell & Co. Was elected to the state senate in 1902. As a member of the senate in 1903 secured the passage of the so-called compulsory purchase water works bill. Was chosen member of the water board in 1904 to succeed Guy C. Barton, resigned. Was beaten in the primaries in the fall of 1904 to succeed himself as a member of the water board, but was subsequently re-elected in 1910 as a member of the board. In 1911 was chosen republican national committeeman in a statewide primary. In the same year was appointed water commissioner of Omaha. In 1913 secured the passage of the Metropolitan Water District bill and was subsequently appointed general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Omaha. In 1914 was republican nominee for governor of Nebraska and was defeated. In 1915 secured the passage by both branches of the legislature of a bill enabling the Metropolitan Water District to go into the electric lighting business, but the bill was vetoed by the governor. Will in 1916 be a candidate for re-election as republican national committeeman, and also candidate to succeed himself as a member of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of the city of Omaha.

John Power.

John Power was born in Ireland and came to Omaha in 1873. He is a cooper by trade and for a number of years worked in Omaha at the Willow Springs Distilling Company. In 1882 he started a shop of his own and soon built up an extensive busi-

ness. In 1900 he was elected sheriff of Douglas County, succeeding himself in 1892 and 1894. After retiring from the sheriff's office, he entered the retail coal business which, in addition to his coöperation, he is conducting at this writing (1915). He is known as "Honest John," a title which he justly deserves, as all who have come in contact with him, either as a private citizen or a public official, can fully substantiate. He made one of the best sheriffs that Douglas County ever had.

Henry Newcomb.

Henry Newcomb was born in New England of old Puritan stock. He came to Omaha in 1862, and for years was in the employ of the government. He was ward assessor for several years and was the first democrat to carry the Seventh ward for any office—this was for assessor. He was well and favorably known to all the old settlers of Omaha. He died October 10, 1901, leaving one son, Henry, and two daughters, Julia and Emma, who for years have been teaching in our public schools and are classed as excellent teachers.

Maj. Robert S. Wilcox.

Robert S. Wilcox was born in Bath, N. Y., April 6, 1845, and came to Omaha in 1887. Was for a number of years manager for Browning, King & Co. of this city. In 1911 he retired from business, but still continues his activities in several commercial bodies in which he has interests. Major Wilcox still possesses that military carriage which for years has made him a conspicuous figure on our streets. Father Time appears to have been very generous to him, as he possesses an appearance more youthful than many men half his age.

Charles A. Goss.

Charles A. Goss was born in Ohio in 1864, and came to Omaha in 1886, where he practiced law for twenty-eight years. Served in the legislature of 1893 and was United States attorney for Nebraska, 1906 to 1910, when he again resumed his private practice of law, and for more than five years has been a member of the firm of Switzler, Goss & Switzler. I have known Mr. Goss since the first week he arrived in Omaha, and have watched his public and private career during all of that time, and can knowingly say of him that he is one of the most conscientious and upright men today before the Douglas County bar.

T. J. Mahoney.

T. J. Mahoney was born in Iowa in 1857. Studied law at Notre Dame College and came to Omaha in 1885. In 1888 he was

elected county attorney of Douglas County, and re-elected in 1890. For a number of years his law firm was composed of T. B. Minnahan, C. J. Smythe and himself. In 1896 Mr. Smythe cast his lot with W. J. Bryan, Mr. Mahoney adhering to the gold standard. Mr. Smythe was elected attorney general of this state and the law partnership was dissolved. Mr. Mahoney is one of the most cool-headed painstaking members of this state's bar. His record as county attorney has never been excelled in the history of this county.

Martin Feenan.

Martin Feenan was born in County West Meath, Ireland, November 11, 1840. He came to Nebraska and to Omaha in 1867. Served through the entire Civil War, participating in some of the greatest battles of that memorable conflict. Being a marble cutter by trade, he established in Omaha in 1868 the first monument works in this city at Fifteenth and Davenport Streets, where he continued business until 1892, when he moved to his yards at 2220 Poppleton Avenue. His present location is Forty-eighth and Leavenworth Streets, where he is engaged in like business with one of his sons. The firm is known as M. J. Feenan & Son. It is claimed that he has made more monuments than any man that ever lived in Nebraska. I once introduced him in a club as the man who had "chiseled out" more lies than any one man in America (he having made more monuments). Mr. Feenan is one of the most conscientious men I have ever met and is the soul of honor, truth and integrity—a monument made up of character that will last longer than any ever constructed by his own hands.

G. Fred Elsasser.

G. Fred Elsasser came to Nebraska and Omaha with his parents on March 23, 1867, from Germany. The family consisted of his father, G. Fred, Sr., his mother and Peter E., Emma and Katherine. For a number of years the father ran the Green Tree house at Tenth and Farnam Streets and for years Fred and his brother, Pete, ran barber shops in various places in this city. In 1894 Mr. Elsasser became deputy county recorder of deeds under his brother, Peter E., and in 1900 was elected county treasurer of Douglas County, serving two terms, when he retired to private life and engaged in the barber business with his brother, Peter, at 314 South Fourteenth Street. Selling his interest there, he entered the restaurant business, in which he is at present engaged. His brother, Peter E., has filled various offices in this city and county, having served in the city council from 1891 to 1895 and, while holding that position, was elected county recorder of deeds of Douglas County. In 1897 he was elected

councilman-at-large and served one term of three years. In 1898 he was elected county commissioner of Douglas County for one term of three years, retiring to enter the barber business, which he is now carrying on. The Elsassers are the most numerous of any one family in Omaha, or perhaps the state of Nebraska. This, of course, is not meant to leave the impression that all of the 270 of the kindred are all of one immediate family, but in general terms when we speak of the Elsasser family. This is brought about through marriage and inter-marriage. From 1869 to 1874 some six or eight families, cousins of Fred and Pete, came to Omaha from Germany, with families ranging from five to eight children. This, coupled with the fact that G. Fred Elsasser, Jr., had fourteen children of his own, may partly account for the present numerical strength of the family. Each Thanksgiving the relatives have a family reunion. It was my pleasure to participate in the festivities, the last one, at the German Home, where I mingled in a jovial crowd, ranging in ages from eight weeks to eighty years. I said then and repeat now, "May their posterity never grow less."

James Lynch, Sr.

James Lynch, Sr., was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1832. He located in Ithaca, N. Y., with his wife and family in 1857. In 1862 the family moved to Omaha direct from Ithaca and lived for a number of years on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and Jackson Streets, moving from there in 1865 to 1518 Marcy Street, where on August 29, 1866, he died, his wife following him a few years afterward. They left surviving them six children—Daniel, Margaret, Patrick, James, Minnie and Sue. Of these two have died, Daniel and Patrick. All of the family are given as follows:

Daniel was born January 12, 1841, was a blacksmith and for a number of years ran a blacksmith shop in Omaha. In addition to his trade he was an excellent violinist and was in much demand in the early days of Omaha, when entertainments were given to men of prominence who visited here after the war, General Sherman being one of the distinguished guests at a reception given him in the old Herndon House. He was for a number of years located at the Rosebud Agency, at which place he died November, 1890, and was buried in Omaha. He was unmarried.

Margaret, born October 11, 1843, was married in 1865 to Thomas Cleary, who for years was engaged in the express business. He died May 29, 1870, leaving a wife and two children, Frank and Agnes. Agnes married John J. Hamnighen in 1893 and is living in Omaha. Frank was married to Miss Mary Hogan in 1899 and now resides in Chicago, after severing his connection with the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific railroads, and is now engaged with the Great Western railroad.

Patrick, born March 9, 1849, was married to Ellen Fitzpatrick in Omaha on August 7, 1873. He was for more than twenty years in the employ of the Union Pacific railroad as check clerk at the local freight office, was county jailer for two years—1890-91; was four years gauger at the Willow Springs Distilling Company in Omaha under Cleveland's first administration; was government storekeeper at the same place from 1892 to 1906, a position he held at the time of his death, December 13, 1906. He is survived by a wife, three sons—James, Benjamin, William—and one daughter, Angela. His son, Benjamin, succeeded him in his position at the time of his death. William is an attorney, James an electrician. Angela is married to John Mattern, all residing in Omaha.

James H., born December 23, 1853, was for years in the employ of the Union Pacific railroad in various capacities, first as check clerk in the local freight department in Omaha; for one year telegraph operator and agent for the road at Brady Island and at Columbus, Neb.; was clerk of the Omaha police court for two years—1890-91, and agent for the Northwestern railroad at Jackson, Neb., from 1892-96 and agent for the same road at Chicago from 1896 to 1900. He is now in the employ of the Great Western at Omaha. He was married to Elizabeth Coffey at Columbus, Neb., in 1882 and has one son, Daniel, a plumber, and two daughters, Agnes and Gertrude, both telegraph operators and employed with the Western Union. All are residing in Omaha.

Minnie, born August 28, 1857, was married to Otto Michaelson, an uncle of the noted sculptor, Solon Borglum, in 1881 at Omaha. Her husband is a machinist by trade and the inventor and patentee of the celebrated Michaelson crusher and ore refiner, an invention to be found in any part of the civilized world where mining camps are located and rock crushing carried on to any extent. They had three children—Charles, Will and Ilean. Charles died in May, 1915. Will is manager for his father's manufacturing establishment and Ilean is at present in an art institute. The family for the past two years has resided in Minneapolis, Minn.

Susie, born August 18, 1861, is the baby of the family and was one year old when she came to Omaha. She attended the Jackson Street School, also the Pacific and Omaha High during the time the late lamented Professor Beals was professor at that school. She was married to me May 13, 1884, at St. Philomena's Cathedral in this city. We had born to us eight children—five boys and three girls—all living. The oldest boy, Hilliard, is in the real estate business. Irven, the next, is field engineer for the city of Omaha. He was married to Miss Ruth Coryell of Trenton, N. J., in June, 1911. Edward, Jr., is a clerk in the Omaha postoffice. Charles, a student at the Central High,

is battalion sergeant-major of the cadets and captain of the football team. Milton is a student at the Commercial High School. Mae is my stenographer, Viola a music teacher and Sue Harriett a teacher in the Omaha public schools. Some family, is it not? for an humble lawyer to have reared, and all but one living under the same roof, with one of the best mothers the world ever produced. (I can't say as much for the father.)

Henry P. Haze.

Capt. Henry P. Haze was born in Pella, Marion County, Iowa, October 30, 1856. He remained there until he was 21 years of age, then moved to Gove County, Kansas, where he took up a homestead and remained there two years, as he had to abandon the claim on account of the failure of crops due to hot winds and drouth. He went to Abilene, Kansas, in the spring of 1880 and in the fall of the same year moved to Enterprise, Kansas, at which place he was married to Mary Hopkins February 1, 1881, and on the 7th day of October, 1881, came to Omaha. He obtained employment at the Union Pacific freight house, staying there until September 29, 1885, at which time he was appointed to a position on the Omaha police force by Mayor J. E. Boyd, under Marshal Thomas Cummings. He served two years at a patrolman and on September 21, 1887, was made a police sergeant under Chief Seavey; was chief of detectives for six years—1889 to 1895—and on September 4, 1895, was made captain of police under Chief Sigwart; was captain four years and at a change of commissioners and a reorganization of the police force, he, with thirty-seven others was let out by a democratic board under Chief Martin White.

For three years he sold flour for the Model Milling Company as city salesman, and in 1902 was again appointed captain of police under a republican board; served as captain until January 1, 1906, when he resigned to go into the sheriff's office under Sheriff McDonald. He worked there for two years, until his term expired. On February 2, 1910, he was appointed deputy United States marshal by Marshal Warner; was in this office for five and one-half years and went out with William Warner on August 15, 1915. On the 22d of November, 1915, he was appointed superintendent of the new city workhouse, which was established at that time, and is now holding that position.

Among the most important cases he handled while chief of detectives and captain of police are the following: Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who were murdered by Ed Neal in 1890 at the Pinney farm. Maud Ruble was murdered by Sam Paine in 1893. Ida Gaskill was murdered by George Morgan in 1895. The George Elliott safe-blowing gang, which he arrested at Florence, Neb., with a complete burglar's outfit, including two bottles of nitro-

glycerine. The Chas. Davis robbers and Jas. Bruton robbers and highwaymen. He was instrumental in breaking up and sending to the pen many other gangs.

Edward F. Morearty, Sr.—(Autobiography.)

I was born in Knoxville, Tenn., August 11, 1860 and baptized by the poet priest of the south, Father A. J. Ryan. At the age of three years my parents moved to a farm on Beaver Creek, twelve miles from that city, to the noise and roar of cannon and in sight of glittering sabers, when the blue and the grey were contesting every inch of east Tennessee. Our farm was but a primeval forest; but little of it had been cultivated. The felling of the great oaks and clearing of underbrush depended upon my father, as we children were too young to be of any service. There were five of us—Patrick, myself, Thomas, James and Mary.

The nearest school was three miles away, and our chances to attend were confined to July, August and September in the summer when the crops were "laid by," and a few months in the winter. Our primary grades were taught us by our father, he having a good education which he acquired in his early days in Vermont and Ohio. My oldest brother and I were sent to the grade schools of Knoxville, where we graduated. By reason of my father having poisoned his eyes through poison weeds, we sold our farm in 1872 and shortly afterward moved to Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland. Why this move I never understood, except that climatic conditions might improve his health, which prediction was not verified, as he died of typhoid fever a few months after our arrival.

The Christian Brothers College was located in the town in which we lived, and my brother, Patrick, and I graduated from it, after which the family returned to America and located at Holyoke, Mass. Shortly afterward we, excepting my oldest brother, went to Knoxville, Tenn., where for two years I was timekeeper and paymaster for my uncle, who was then engaged in constructing a part of the Cincinnati Southern railroad, which position I left to come to Omaha January 15, 1880. My career since then can be found in the various parts of these Recollections. My mother and brother, Thomas, died in Holyoke in 1912. To my father and mother I recognize to the fullest extent the obligations that I owe them. They taught me industry, economy and sobriety. They were plain and simple in their lives, but such success as I have attained I will always attribute to their teachings and good examples.

Wallace O. Shane.

Wallace O. Shane was born in Boston, Mass., October 18, 1864, and came to Nebraska and Omaha with his parents by boat

when a boy, landing at the foot of Farnam Street. Was educated in the Omaha schools and entered the service of the Omaha National Bank in November, 1883, serving in various capacities until 1885, when he became receiving teller and in 1900 paying teller, a position which he has occupied up to this writing.

He is the son of the well-known architect, D. L. Shane, who drew the plans of many of the largest public and private buildings in the state. He was married in 1888 and has one child. I had the pleasure, while clerk of the county court, of issuing him his marriage license.

As an expert on handwriting he has few if any superiors in this country. Possibly no man west of Chicago has occasion to examine signatures oftener than he, because of his position, and in all Nebraska there cannot be found a more patient, accommodating and courteous bank attache than Wallace O. Shane.

A. J. Poppleton—(A Chapter of His Autobiography.)

This biography was not made public until the middle of 1915. I obtained it from his son-in-law, M. L. Learned. The reason that I am giving it more space than usual is the fact that I classed him as one of the best friends I ever had. It was I who persuaded him to accept the office of city attorney during my term of councilman of Omaha, and Mayor R. C. Rushing appointed him. His services to the city of Omaha were about the last ever rendered, either publicly or privately, which official position he has failed to mention in his autobiography which is in substance as follows:

“I was born on a farm in Oakland County, Michigan, July 25, 1830. In April, 1852, I entered the law offices of C. I. and E. C. Walker of Detroit and spent until October 22 of the same year in study and legal work. During this same period, Jonas Seeley, Clinton Briggs and General Henry Morrow were students in other offices in Detroit. On the 22d of October of that year I was examined at Pontiac, Mich., before the Supreme Court of Michigan and admitted to practice. The winter of 1852-53 I spent at the law school of John Fowler, first located at Ballston, N. Y., moving thence to Poughkeepsie, N. Y. This period was devoted almost wholly to improving and perfecting myself in extemporaneous speaking, Professor Fowler making that a specialty and being himself an orator of extraordinary power. In the spring of 1853 I returned to Detroit and became a member of the firm known as Cargill, Poppleton & Chase. I remained there until August, 1854.

“Our firm proved to be top-heavy—too many partners and too little business. It was dissolved, and I then began to look about for a new field of operations. The Kansas and Nebraska

bill had just been passed, the Indian title had been extinguished to the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and attention was generally attracted to them. Leavenworth and Council Bluffs seemed to be the two points about which most was known and to which mention was most generally directed. I was little inclined to either, preferring Chicago or San Francisco. I left Detroit about the first of October. After remaining a day or two in Chicago, I determined to go as far west as Davenport. Upon reaching there I found everybody talking about Des Moines. Upon reaching there I found the tide still setting further west to Council Bluffs. While at Union College I had read in the New York Tribune a letter written by an army officer, pointing out the site opposite Council Bluffs on the west bank of the Missouri as the seat of a future great city. The influence of this letter had really moved me from point to point westward of Chicago, with a view of settling there myself if my judgment should approve on seeing it. I reached Council Bluffs after five days' travel by stage from Davenport on Friday, October 13, 1854, and the next day I visited the site of Omaha and, standing upon the summit of Capitol Hill, about the hour of noon, felt that the New York Tribune had not exaggerated the location.

“That afternoon I found myself on the Iowa side of the river returning to the Bluffs. I had been walking since eight in the morning, had no dinner, and had neither seen nor heard of any person I had previously known. As I set off to cover the distance between the river and the Bluffs, I was somewhat depressed in spirit. I could see no work in Omaha for a lawyer; there were about twenty people there, no government, no courts, no laws. While walking along I saw coming toward me a double team loaded with lumber and driven by a single person. What was my astonishment upon approaching him to recognize A. J. Hanscom. I had never seen him since we were fellow students at Rome. In the meantime he had served in the Mexican War, been employed upon the lakes and married, drifted to Council Bluffs, engaged first in farming and then in merchandise and now had made a claim adjoining Omaha and was building a dwelling house thereon. I expressed my view of the discouraging outlook for me as a lawyer who must earn his living. He then went on to say that the territorial officers had just arrived at Bellevue; that a territorial organization would be immediately made; that an election for members of the legislative assembly would soon be called; that there was already more or less contention about claims and boundaries, and he thought if I remained and established myself in Omaha that I could secure a good claim and earn something in claim disputes; that both of us could be elected to the legislature and I would earn enough to carry me through until spring. These suggestions appealed to me and I decided to remain.

"A few days afterward Governor O. D. Richardson of Michigan arrived in the Bluffs and together we purchased a lot and built a cabin. The lot was purchased from the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company. I paid 'White Cow,' the Omaha chief, \$10 for peace and privilege of occupying the lot. We finished the structure in ten days, and this so-called office was situated at Tenth and Farnam, standing on the rear of the lot. It was 10x14 feet and consisted of a light framework of cottonwood scantling, covered with cottonwood slabs; the roof was of cottonwood boards; one door in front and a small window at the side of it and another in the rear were the only openings. During the fall we covered the whole exterior with sod with our own hands.

"At the election Hanscom and myself were both elected to the lower house. The first session was an eventful and critical period for Omaha. The capital was to be located, and Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Bellevue and Omaha were the contestants. I, with others, had taken claims and was very much interested in the town. The struggle which resulted in the location of the capital at Omaha was long and close. Of the territorial officials, Acting Governor T. B. Cummings was unquestionably entitled to the greatest credit for this result. Of the members of the two houses of the legislature, while the entire delegation in such body did their best, it cannot be denied that A. H. Hanscom, A. J. Poppleton and Governor Richardson, who was a member of the council, were conspicuous in the contest. At the close of the legislature my occupation was at an end. It was no part of my purpose to engage in politics, as I had never lost sight of the law, and its practice was my ambition. For a few days I felt somewhat depressed, and then came employment in the shape of the first lawsuit ever tried in Nebraska, after which I was never idle in my profession. This was the suit of John Pentecost against F. M. Woods and involved a claim situated on a tributary of Saddle Creek, near the present site of Elmwood Park. My client was Pentecost. Governor Richardson represented Woods. A full day was spent in the trial and my client was successful.

"In March, 1857, when the government surveys were completed and the United States land office opened at Omaha, contests in the land office became the staple litigation in which I was engaged until 1863, when my work for the Union Pacific first began. I was also engaged in many criminal trials during that time.

"I was elected a member of the legislature of 1857-58 and served throughout that session—the most fruitless, perhaps, ever held in Nebraska. It was during that session that a conflict arose which resulted in a portion of the members withdrawing from the lawful body in session in Omaha and seeking to establish

themselves at Florence as the lawful legislative body. I was elected speaker of that portion of the body remaining in Omaha.

"In July, 1858, I was stricken with a sudden and painful illness, from which I did not recover sufficiently to resume the practice of my profession until March, 1860. I had been elected mayor of the city in the spring of 1858, which office I was compelled to resign in October following on account of my sickness.

"In July, 1862, the act authorizing the construction of the Union Pacific railway became a law. Nothing, however, was done under it except to organize a company on paper, until December, 1863. At that date, chiefly for its effect on congress, then about to assemble, from which the company was about to ask important legislation, the ceremony of breaking ground took place at Omaha. Peter Day, railroad commissioner of Iowa, had been appointed chief engineer of the road and sent to Omaha and placed in charge of the interest of the company. At the ceremony of breaking ground, after officials and G. F. Train and others had spoken, I was called upon to speak. My speech gave great satisfaction to Mr. Day and other officials, and a few days afterward I was engaged by Mr. Dey on behalf of the road to attend to such legal business as might arise at Omaha for the company and specially requested to prepare a general railroad law to be brought before the legislative assembly at its next session. This law was passed at the session of 1864 and has remained unchanged until the present day. From this time until the spring of 1869 very much of my time was occupied in advising and assisting railway officers, in acquiring right-of-way, depot and shop grounds in the city of Omaha, and in the meantime also my general practice, especially in the trial of heavy law and equity cases, was constantly increasing, and I think that at no period of my whole life have I ever been more completely absorbed in business; nor was I ever faster educated.

"Until July, 1869, I had never received from the railway company any fixed salary. I had been paid upon itemized bills rendered for specific services. In the month of July, 1869, upon one of the hottest days I recollect to have experienced, a messenger came to my office stating that John Duff and C. S. Bushnell, both directors of the company, wished to see me at the Cozzen House in Omaha. I lost no time in presenting myself before them, for I knew they had been appointed a committee by what was known as the construction company to visit Omaha and straighten out, if possible, the tangles which had arisen with that organization, and especially in relation to a firm of tie and timber contractors known as Davis & Associates.

"I found these gentlemen minus coats and vests, each diligently plying a large palm leaf fan and, as it seemed to me, in

distress not wholly caused by the heat. Mr. Duff said that he found that the amount of money drawn by me from the company was constantly increasing, and that the business was also increasing and perhaps fully warranted my charges. That he thought during the last year I had drawn perhaps \$5,000, which would be a fair salary to pay for the exclusive time of counsel. That they had sent for me to agree, if possible, upon a fixed salary which would give the company preference in my attention to its business, and if necessary cover my exclusive services. Thereupon he put the question of what salary I would require. I knew the position of the legal business of this company better than these gentlemen, and I answered promptly, '\$12,000 per year.' They were astonished at first, but agreed upon a salary of \$10,000. He then took from his pocket about a dozen summonses and subpoenas served upon them that day involving litigation to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 and covering the line from Omaha to Utah. My agreement began July 1, 1869, and from that time until my resignation in February, 1888, I had few legal engagements outside of the business of the company. My salary was afterwards raised to \$12,000 and continued so until my resignation. This ended my connection with the Union Pacific railroad and its affairs. I had been twenty-four years in its service and had participated in almost all of its trials, conflicts, failures and successes, and I had grown to feel a strong personal attachment for the corporation. Its affairs, however, do not seem to me to have improved and I fear that the inherent infirmities entailed upon it by early mismanagement can never be healed or removed, and that liquidation alone will clear it of the wreckage and make it useful to the people of the state through which it runs and to the government of the United States. It is impossible to predict the future of the company. It can only be said that in the absence of a long extension upon very low interest by the United States the company and its affairs must come to bankruptcy. Immediately after my resignation I made a short journey to Mexico, and upon my return to Omaha I took up the general practice. My best legal work between 1888 and 1892 consisted in the preparation of the law authorizing the consolidation of the street railways of Omaha, and drafting, perfecting, defending and vindicating that consolidation in the courts, together with the preparation and argument, in conjunction with Mr. Woolworth, of the two cases of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company against the Union Pacific to compel the specific performance of a contract for joint trackage over the Missouri River bridge and a portion of the line of the Union Pacific. The arguments of these cases before Associate Justice Brewer of the supreme court were my last in the federal courts.

"As early as 1880 the sight of my left eye had become impaired. Occulists had advised me that this had no necessary connection with, and would probably have no effect upon, the right. Nevertheless, about the first of January, 1892, the sight of my right eye began rapidly to fail."

Mr. Poppleton died at Omaha September 24, 1896.

Wm. J. Connell.

William J. Connell was born in Canada, near the boundary line of Vermont. Not as old as John C. Cowin, nor as young as John L. Webster (?), but can run faster, jump higher and hit harder than either or both of them! He came to Omaha from Vermont with the birth of Nebraska, early in 1867, and was elected district attorney to succeed General Cowin; went to congress in 1889; was city attorney of Omaha, by appointment, for several terms; was attorney for the street railway company for over twenty years, from which position he resigned December, 1915; is now a "free lance." Has owned more real estate and paid more taxes than any man in Omaha—paid over \$60,000 to county treasurer in last two years. Intends to devote the last decade of his legal career to serving the public and protecting the rights and interests of the people.

As a trial lawyer he has few equals and no superiors in this state. He is as brazen as brass itself, has bulldog tenacity and a hide as difficult of perforation as that of an elephant. With all that, W. J. Connell is possessed of a heart as big as that of an ox, ready and willing at all times to lend a helping hand to the deserving and worthy.

H. F. Curtis.

H. F. Curtis was born on his father's farm in Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1864; was educated in the public schools of that county until he attained the age of manhood. Was stationed in Ohio and Pennsylvania for the New York Central & St. Louis Railroad from 1884 to 1898; was traveling for the same road, with headquarters in Omaha, from 1898 to 1910, leaving its employ in that year to accept the presidency of the Lyman Sand Company of Omaha, with branch offices in various Nebraska towns, which position he is holding at this writing.

Mr. Curtis is well and favorably known throughout the state and ranks high in business, social and church circles. He is married and has two children.

A. Hospe.

Mr. A. Hospe was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 3, 1854, and came to Nebraska and Omaha in November, 1874.

He has been engaged in the art business in Omaha, to my knowledge, since 1881, and is still conducting the largest wholesale and retail music and art store in the city at the old stand, 1513 Douglas Street, where he can be seen wearing a smile familiar to all for the past thirty-five years.

Dan Butler.

Dan Butler was born in Ottawa, Illinois, in 1880 and came to Nebraska and Omaha with his parents in 1890; entered Creighton College in 1896, graduating from it in 1899. He served as deputy county clerk under John Drexel from 1902 to 1905; was elected city clerk of Omaha in 1906 and re-elected in 1909; was elected city commissioner in 1912 and re-elected in 1915. During his term as commissioner he has been head of the department of finance. His term will expire in 1918.

Mr. Butler is a capable official and has discharged every duty reposed in him with credit to himself and the public. He is the son of the late Joseph Butler, one of Omaha's old and honored citizens, and a brother of Joseph Butler, head of the department of gas and electric lights—part of the city management.

A. C. Kugel.

A. C. Kugel was born in London, England, February 8, 1867, of German parents; lived three years in Germany; moved from there to Toronto, Canada, in 1874, where his mother died; in 1876 moved to Chicago. The following year he moved to New York City; after three years there he moved to Harlan, Iowa, on a farm; came to Omaha from Iowa in 1887.

He was a journeyman plumber and learned the trade under Hussie & Day Company. For eight years was financial secretary of the Plumbers' Union and for two terms was president of the same organization; was also secretary of the Omaha Central Labor Union. After serving as plumbing inspector for a brief while he was elected city councilman from the Tenth ward in 1909. In 1912 he was elected city commissioner and was twenty-one months head of the street cleaning department; was transferred from street cleaning department to that of police, sanitation and public safety and was re-elected to that office in 1915. His term will expire in 1918.

He was married November 10, 1893, and has two children, Charles and Mildred.

Mr. Kugel has made good in every department of public service in which he has been placed. He is cool and even tempered. This, coupled with his extensive affiliations with the common people, has made him a useful and practical public servant.

F. C. Best.

Frank C. Best was born in Blue Grass, Scott County, Iowa, July 27, 1873. After attending the public schools of that county he came to Omaha in 1888. For four years he was engaged in the real estate business; was for a number of years bookkeeper in the Union Stock Yards Bank. He was elected to the 1907 legislature, the session that procured for the people more progressive legislation than any in the history of Nebraska. He was elected county commissioner in 1912; his term expires in 1917. He has made an enviable record as commissioner and will be a candidate to succeed himself in 1916, and is deserving of re-election.

John C. Lynch.

John C. Lynch was born in Omaha June 6, 1877, on the corner of Sixteenth and Pine Streets; was educated in the parochial and public schools of this city. At the age of 18 he was apprenticed to Hussie & Day, where he learned the plumbing trade and worked as a journeyman plumber until his appointment by Frank E. Moores as plumbing inspector of Omaha, in 1903, which position he held until elected county commissioner of Douglas County in 1910. He was re-elected in 1914; his term expires in 1919.

Douglas County never had a more efficient, capable and accommodating official than John C. Lynch. He is the son of an old Omaha pioneer, Humphrey Lynch, who for forty years was an employee of the Union Pacific railroad. Shortly after retiring on a pension he died in December, 1915, at the age of 73.

James Walsh.

James Walsh was born in Ireland in 1855. When a young man he left there for Australia, where he lived until coming to the United States and to Omaha, in 1873. That year he located on a homestead near Elkhorn, Neb., where he continued to reside until 1906, when he moved his residence to Benson, a suburb of Omaha, where he is still living. He was for a number of years a member of the board of trade, buying a seat on that board at a very low price and surrendering it at a fabulous one.

Mr. Walsh is one of the best known and highly respected men in Douglas County. It is said of him that he would rather play a game of pitch than do anything else on earth except play

the game of politics. He is the most genial and companionable man that I have ever met, and the most rabid and unterrified republican from Portland, Maine, to Puget Sound, Washington. On one of his many trips to Ireland he discovered a brand of whiskey called "Bush Mills," which, through his efforts, was introduced into Omaha, and many the time that I wished the tariff or duty on it had been ten times what it is.

Mr. Walsh was elected to the 1907 session of the legislature and made a splendid record. He is an authority on agriculture and horticulture, and was appointed in 1903 by the governor to represent Nebraska at the Louisiana Exposition, held at St. Louis that year. He is now retired and is a man of considerable wealth, every dollar of which he has acquired through honest and legitimate means.

D. O. McEwan.

D. O. McEwan was born in Scotland in 1849; came to the United States in 1870 and to Omaha in 1881. For a number of years he was engaged in the plumbing business, part of the time under the firm name of Hamilton & McEwan. For a number of years his firm composed the only master plumbers in Omaha. The Boyd Opera House, the Paxton and Millard Hotels were among the buildings in which he did the plumbing. He and his family still reside in Omaha.

Andrew Murphy.

Andrew Murphy was born in Canada in 1849 and came to Nebraska and to Omaha in 1867. In that year he started a wagon and horse-shoe shop on the northwest corner of Fourteenth and Howard Streets, at which place he continued business until 1910, when he moved to his present location, 1418 Jackson Street. In addition to his other business, he is engaged in the manufacture of automobiles of the traffic kind. For the past five years his firm has been known as Murphy & Son, having as a trademark, "Murphy Did It." Few men in Omaha are better known and liked than Andrew Murphy, as he is a man of good business tact, loved and respected for his noble qualities and his unflinching loyalty to his friends and his devotion to his family and his religion.

George I. Gilbert.

George Ingersoll Gilbert was born August 14, 1827, in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont, and died in Omaha October 7, 1899. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1853. He was one of seven brothers, all of whom were at the university at the same time. Immediately after graduation he was appointed professor of astronomy and mathematics in Louisiana College,

Louisiana, which position he held until 1856, when he resigned. He was admitted to the bar in Chicago in 1857, and the same year settled in Omaha, where he began the practice of his profession. In 1858 he was elected city solicitor or city attorney and was also school examiner in 1858-59. In 1860 he formed a law partnership with George B. Lake under the name of Lake & Gilbert. In 1861 he was elected prosecuting attorney for Douglas County. In 1862 Mr. Gilbert located in Washington territory and a year later was appointed by the then territorial government as probate judge of what is now the southern part of Idaho. In 1867 he went to Chicago and engaged in the commission business and two years afterward he again returned to Omaha, where in April, 1875, he formed a partnership with B. E. B. Kennedy, which was soon dissolved. In 1887 Mr. Gilbert was appointed by Governor Thayer as a member of the first board of fire and police commissioners of Omaha for two years and was reappointed for four years. He was married February 6, 1868, in Pontiac, Mich., to Cornelia Richardson, daughter of Governor O. D. Richardson. He was a member of the fire and police board during the two years I served as a member of the city council, and our relations were of the most friendly nature, as he was one of the most agreeable men I ever met, by reason of which lovable traits I became very much attached to him.

James M. Fitzgerald.

James Fitzgerald was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 7, 1874. In 1880 he came with his parents to Nebraska, locating on a homestead in Filmore County. He entered Creighton College in 1898 and graduated from the department of arts in 1903, after which he entered the University of Michigan, graduating from there in 1906. He came direct to Omaha and opened a law office and in 1910 he formed a partnership with Thomas Lynch, which firm was known as Lynch & Fitzgerald. In 1911 he was appointed deputy county attorney under county attorney James P. English, which position he now holds. In the fall of 1915 he filed for the office of police judge of Omaha on the democratic ticket, subject to the action of his party in the April, 1916, primary. Mr. Fitzgerald has made a good record as deputy county attorney and has vigorously prosecuted and convicted in many murder cases during his term. He has a wife and two children.

I. S. Hascall.

Isaac S. Hascall came to Nebraska in its territorial days. He was a native of New York, a lawyer by profession, and was county judge of Douglas County from 1862-63. He served two terms in the state senate and at one session was its president, owing to the death of the lieutenant governor. He served twelve

years in the Omaha city council, but at no time did he succeed himself. He was one of the best read men I ever met, a cool yet dreaded foe in a debate; he seldom gave his word in politics, but when he did you were sure it would be kept. He was one of the few public men of his day that the late Ed. Rosewater feared. This was owing to his unlimited resources in political strategy (Rosewater being adept at it himself). I knew Ike Haseall well from 1881 to the day of his death in 1908. He had a bright mind—always far-seeing, but visionary, or perhaps too progressive for his day and generation, and was warm-hearted and generous, ever willing to help the deserving and assist them in buying and building homes, and many are the now prosperous families of Omaha whom Haseall encouraged and assisted in buying and paying for their little places. Through his untiring efforts to build up this city he died a poor man, though once reaching the millionaire class; yet he left behind something greater than riches—a good name and kind deeds, never having wronged anyone and made many a poor struggling person happy and wealthy, against his own judgment.

Henry Rohlff.

Henry Rohlff was born in Davenport, Iowa, March 3, 1867, and came to Omaha in 1882. His first employment was with Hans Wigger in the old Bushman Block, now the Karbach Block, and later he was with Ed. Maurer, starting in business for himself at Twenty-second Street and Poppleton Avenue in 1866, afterwards on Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth and Leavenworth Streets. For the past ten years he has been the Nebraska agent for the Schoenhoffen Brewing Company, with headquarters at 2569 Leavenworth Street. In addition to this he has a wholesale and retail liquor house. He is also owner of the Rohlff Theater.

Few men have succeeded as has Mr. Rohlff, and all by his own efforts.

He is married and has four children.

Daniel Shull.

Dan Shull has lived in Omaha from his boyhood, having been here continuously from 1858. In that year his father preempted a homestead of what is now known as Shull's Addition to Omaha. Of the family there were two brothers, Dan and William, and four sisters—Mrs. Spooner, Mrs. Laurence, Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Merriam.

He is one of the most fatherly, kind, generous and warm-hearted of men, and has resided in his present home since 1885, at Twenty-fifth Street and Poppleton Avenue. He is known to the neighborhood children as "Uncle Dan."

Thomas F. Lee.

Thomas F. Lee was a native son of Omaha, born in 1882; a graduate of Creighton College and the University of Iowa—from its law department—in 1903. He was appointed city prosecutor of this city by Mayor Moores in May, 1904, and served during the mayor's term, or three years. He was one of the most promising of the young men of the Omaha bar, being a man of unusual ability, with a bright mind and strong will, accommodating and courteous. He made an able record as city prosecutor, possessing, as he did, the noble traits of charity and sympathy for the fallen and wretched. He sought only to prosecute and not persecute.

Mr. Lee died May 14, 1914, beloved by all who knew him. He was the son of one of Omaha's most honored citizens, Ambrose Lee.

Dr. L. A. Merriam.

Dr. L. A. Merriam was born in Ohio in 1843 and came to Omaha in 1883, and for a number of years was located in the old Bushman Block, where now stands the Karbach Block, Fifteenth and Douglas Streets, but for years has had offices in the Bee Building. I have been acquainted with him from the first day that he came to this city, and for more than twenty years he has been my family physician, thereby enabling me to know the true character of the man. Taking him professionally and socially, I can truthfully say that he is one of the most intellectual and pleasing men I have ever met in his profession; devoid of frills, bombast and pomposity; a hater of sham pretentious progress made in his profession; ever willing to prescribe the simplest and most economical remedy for the ailments of his patients. He has not grown rich in this world's goods, nor will he, for the reason that he dearly cherishes the noble principle of the "fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." He is now in his 73rd year, hale and hearty, a living example of one who has practiced virtue and sobriety during the long life which the Lord has seen fit to give him.

Dr. Merriam is a member of the Masonic body and the Knights of Pythias, the Redmen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Wm. P. Lynch.

William P. Lynch is a native child of Omaha, having been born, raised and educated here. He is the son of the late P. W. and Ellen Lynch, Omaha pioneers; was born August 15, 1881, at Sixteenth and Marey Streets; was educated in the public and parochial schools of this city and graduated from the law de-

partment of Creighton University in 1905 with the degree of B. A. Has practiced here since then. He has a bright, clear, legal mind and is fast attaining prominence among the legal profession. He is ambitious to be one of the three municipal judges to be elected in 1916, and is capable of filling that office very satisfactorily.

John L. Kennedy.

John L. Kennedy was born on a farm in Ayrshire, Scotland, October 27, 1854. He attended the public school in Scotland until he was twelve years of age, when he was needed at home on the farm. When he was nineteen he came to the United States and farmed in LaSalle County, Illinois, for four years. From the farm he went to Galesburg, Ill., and entered Knox College. He remained at Knox about three years, but did not complete the college course. At different times he has received from Knox College the honorary degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Laws.

Mr. Kennedy graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa in 1882, and in December of that year he came to Omaha and engaged in the practice of law. From 1882 to 1888 he was a member of the firm of Kennedy & Martin. In 1888 Myron L. Learned succeeded Mr. Martin, and the partnership of Kennedy & Learned continued for nineteen years, being dissolved by mutual consent in 1907.

During his thirty-three years' residence in Omaha Mr. Kennedy has been actively identified with the development of the city, and has contributed largely to various buildings erected within the last few years. He was one of the moving spirits in the buildings erected within the last few years. He was one of the moving spirits in the building of the Fontenelle Hotel, and served as chairman of the building committee. He is a director of the Commercial Club of Omaha and during 1915 served as chairman of the public affairs committee.

Mr. Kennedy is a Presbyterian and has been a member of the First Presbyterian church of Omaha for more than thirty years. His family consists of his wife and three children.

In the Fifty-ninth Congress (1905-1907) Mr. Kennedy represented the Second congressional district. In 1911 he was chairman of the republican state committee, when the entire republican state ticket was elected. He has always been a republican and is now a candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator. The primary election will be held April 18, 1916.

I have known John L. Kennedy intimately for more than three decades and, whether as a private citizen or a public official, his genial disposition looms with a radiance that endears him to all who have had occasion to meet or greet him.

Leo A. Hoffman.

Leo A. Hoffman was born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1881, and came to Omaha in 1906, when he formed a partnership with John Gentleman in the Undertaking business. This partnership was dissolved in 1909, and he engaged in business for himself at Sixteenth and Jones Streets, where he remained until 1912, when he moved to Twenty-fourth and Dodge Streets, where he is now located in his own building, one of the finest, best equipped and up-to-date undertaking parlors in the state.

Mr. Hoffman is a prominent member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of various fraternal organizations. He was married to Veronica Daugherty, a daughter of Charles Daugherty, one of Omaha's pioneers, in 1908. They have four children. He is one of the most genial of companions, affable and pleasant, so much so that when he meets and cheers an invalid he knocks himself out of a funeral.

Chas. W. Hamilton.

Charles W. Hamilton was one of Omaha's pioneers, having located here in 1859. Shortly after his arrival he became engaged in the banking business with the late Samuel Caldwell, having organized the United States National Bank, now one of the most substantial in Omaha. He was known to everyone as one of the safest and most conservative men that ever embarked in the banking business in this city, ready and willing to lend a helping hand to the worthy and deserving—this I know from personal experience.

Mr. Hamilton was the father of C. W. and F. T., president of the Omaha Gas Company and vice president of the Merchants National Bank; Fred, cashier of the same bank, and Caldwell, deceased. Mr. Hamilton died in October, 1897.

Cadet Taylor.

Cadet Taylor came to Omaha from Washington, D. C., in 1888. In that year he, Sterling P. Rounds and O. H. Rothecker purchased the Omaha Republican, a morning newspaper of long standing in this city and state. Mr. Taylor was the editor and part owner of the paper during the time of its publication, which ended in 1892. He served one year in the Omaha city council, from the Eighth ward, in addition to being engaged in the banking and real estate business. In May of this year (1915) he completed his term of four years as collector of customs for the port of Omaha, after which he and Mrs. Taylor took a trip around the world to enjoy a well deserved rest.

Mr. Taylor is an affable, courteous gentleman, with a broad, intellectual mind, as mild as a minister and as combative as a lion when the occasion arises.

Charles E. Fanning.

Charles E. Fanning was born in Washington, D. C., in 1855, was educated in the public schools of that city and came to Omaha in 1881.

During his first few years in Omaha he was employed by the late James Creighton as foreman of a sewer construction gang; was later engaged with Hugh Murphy in the paving business. Having confidence in his own ability gained by practical experience, he secured a number of paving contracts, all of which he completed to the satisfaction of the public and with a snug profit to himself.

Encouraged by his success in small matters, he soon launched out in the open field of competition, securing and completing contracts of much magnitude, landing him today in the list of the leading paving contractors of the country. In politics Mr. Fanning has ever been a staunch democrat, and has always given his spare time and liberal donations to his party's success.

I have known Mr. Fanning from the first day that he came to Omaha, and during that long period of time I can truthfully say of him that I have never known a more truthful man or one more loyal to a friend than he. At this writing it is reported that he is likely to be appointed postmaster of Omaha in the coming year. Should such a prediction prove true and Mr. Fanning would accept the office, the public can rest assured that the office will be filled by a worthy occupant.

Since writing the above, Mr. Fanning was appointed postmaster on July 7, 1916, taking the necessary oath and entering upon the duties of his office August 1. His term of office is for four years and judging from the capable record which he has made during the past six months, it is freely predicted for him that he will be one of the most popular and efficient postmasters Omaha has ever had.

C. O. Lobeck, M. C.

Charles Otto, son of Otto and Anna L. Lobeck, was born on a farm at Andover, Illinois; received his education in the common schools of his native village, later at Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, and the high schools of Geneseo, Illinois.

At the age of seventeen years he began his life work as a salesman in his father's general merchandise store at Dayton,

Ohio, and commenced his career as traveling salesman in 1876 in the territory on the Chicago & Rock Island and Northwestern railways and continued in the same until 1879.

On March 1, 1880, Mr. Lobeck came to Omaha and engaged as a traveling salesman for the wholesale hardware house of Lee Fried & Co.—now the well-known firm of Lee, Coit, Andreesen Hardware Company. He served with them for eight years and was considered one of the leading commercial salesmen in Nebraska. In 1889 he became associated with the Omaha Hardware Company, which lost its business by fire in 1892, causing an entire loss to all its shareholders. From 1892 to 1895 he was in the retail hardware business, the firm being known as the Lobeck-Linn Hardware Company. He retired from business January 1, 1896. During this period Mr. Lobeck took an active part in mercantile lines and was elected director of the old Omaha board of trade in 1888, from which he resigned in 1890 to make room for a member of the wholesale grain trade, which was being established in Omaha.

In 1892 he was nominated and elected state senator by the republicans of Douglas County and served in the session of 1893, but declined seeking a re-election in 1894. During the session of 1893 he secured the passage of a law, being an amendment to the Omaha charter, by which the railways operating through Omaha were directed to construct viaducts and subways at the railway crossings. Mr. Lobeck was much interested in this because the subject had been one of much contention for twenty years previous between the city and the railways. The effect of this law was that the Union Pacific, the Burlington and other railways since have constructed at their own expense the splendid viaducts and subway crossings in the city.

In 1896-97, owing to financial reverses, he again took up the work of traveling salesman and while on the road in the spring of 1897 was nominated by the silver republicans and democrats as councilman and elected to represent the Fifth ward for a three-year term and was re-elected in 1900. During his first term as councilman he was a prominent factor in securing a final agreement with the Union Pacific railway that its shops and headquarters should be maintained in Omaha for all time. During his second term he was active in securing an adequate assessment for taxation purposes by the franchise corporations of Omaha.

In the fall of 1902, during Mr. Lobeck's absence from the city, he was nominated for county commissioner by his party in a strong republican district and after an exciting canvass, tied the vote with his competitor, but was declared loser by the courts. In this contest I was attorney for his opponent, Henry S. McDonald.

In the spring of 1903 he was elected city comptroller for three years and was re-elected in 1906 and 1909.

In 1910 he was nominated by the democrats for congress to succeed Senator Hitchcock and was elected; re-elected in 1912 and 1914, and has no opposition for renomination by his party in 1916.

Mr. Lobeck was one of the pioneer salesmen of Omaha, and has seen its commercial activities grow from a small beginning until it is now one of the leading cities of the country.

Since writing the above, Mr. Lobeck was re-elected to congress by a majority of 7,000 votes (1916). In this connection it might be truthfully stated that much of the efficient work accomplished by Mr. Lobeck, as well as the exceptional popularity which he has gained is due to his competent and obliging secretary, Mr. James H. Hanley of Omaha.

CHAPTER L.

THOSE PROMINENTLY CONNECTED WITH OMAHA'S
UPBUILD.

If I were asked to name the men who did most toward the upbuilding of Omaha it would be not only a difficult but a delicate task, but from the many, both living and dead, who are deserving ones there are many whom I might have inadvertently or for want of space overlooked. I here enumerate, from personal recollection, the following names:

Edward Creighton	Sam Caldwell	Arthur C. Wakely
John A. Creighton	Victor Caldwell	Nathan Merriam
John D. Creighton	John I. Redick	W. J. Connell
Edw. Rosewater	W. A. Redick	Albert Cahn
Andrew Rosewater	Judge Jas. W. Savage	Chas. H. Pickens
P. H. Hitchcock	John L. McCague	C. W. Weller
Gilbert M. Hitchcock	Casper E. Yost	Aaron Cohn
Richard McCormack	Geo. B. Lake	Geo. H. Kelley
Vitor Rosewater	O. F. Davis	George Brothers
W. A. Paxton	John N. Frenzer	Edgar Allen
Jos. H. Millard	John T. Bell	Oscar Allen
Ezra Millard	Dr. Geo. L. Miller	Peter E. Iler
Frank Murphy	Wm. G. Shriver	Dr. S. D. Mercer
Chas. F. Manderson	Milton Barlow	Hugh McCaffrey
Herman Kountze & Sons	Luther Drake	Ed. Reed
E. Wakely	Sam E. Rogers	Experience Estabrook
Geo. W. Doane	Geo. Barker	Walter S. Jardine
J. J. Brown	Jos. Barker	John A. Wakefield
Chas. H. Brown	Rome Miller	A. B. Huberman
Hal McCord	Thos. Swobe	Henry Livesey
John S. Brady	Chas. Gruenig	Lew Hill
Benj. Gallagher	Charles E. Black	C. F. Goodman
Henry W. Yates	Milton Rogers	Geo. W. Lininger
James E. Boyd	Thos. Rogers	R. C. Patterson
Euclid Martin	P. C. Heimbaugh	W. R. Bennett
Byron Reed	Fred Krug	Joseph F. Sheely
Abraham L. Reed	John A. Harbach	A. J. Simpson
Chas. J. Karbach	Thos. A. Fry	A. J. Vierling
S. P. Morse	S. H. H. Clark	C. N. Dietz
W. V. Morse	T. C. Brunner	James I. Woodard
J. L. Brandeis & Sons	David Cole	James Neville
Wm. Sherman	Wm. Bushman	John G. Willis
Hayden Bros.	Dr. Gifford	Geo. A. Hoagland
John L. Kennedy	Fred Davis	T. C. Byrne
A. J. Poppleton	Meyer Hellman	I. H. Congdon
A. B. McConnell	Fred Drexel	J. H. McConnell
Fred Metz	John A. McShane	E. E. Bruce
John M. Daugherty	Geo. W. Ames	Fred W. Gray
Alvin Saunders	Dr. Geo. Tilden	Fred Dellone
Guy C. Barton	J. M. Woolworth	Wm. I. Kierstead
E. W. Nash	John C. Cowin	Chas. Dewey
Fred A. Nash	John L. Webster	Chas. Shiverick
Geo. A. Joselyn	G. A. Lindquest	Thos. Riley
G. W. Wattles	Sophus Neble	Thos. O'Connor
C. W. Hamilton	John Neble	Frank Dellone
Frank T. Hamilton	N. H. Loomis	John Kennelly

P. J. Qualey
 James Megeath
 Geo. W. Holdrege
 Thos. L. Kimball
 J. J. Hannighen
 Owen McCaffrey
 John Rosickey
 Dr. J. H. Peabody
 Dr. Peck
 J. E. House
 John Baumer
 Thomas Swift
 Mark Hansen
 Geo. Homan
 Richard O'Keefe
 Fred Lange
 Thos. Hoctor
 Wm. Wallace
 Henry Lehman
 E. Buckingham
 E. K. Long
 Frank Carliss
 Richard Kitchen
 Ralph Kitchen
 Richard Withnell
 Frank Range
 Ed. P. Peck
 Randall K. Brown
 A. D. Jones
 Enis Lowe
 John F. Coad
 Wm. F. Sweesy
 Michael Cudahy
 Geo. G. Wallace
 Robt. Cowell
 Thos. Kilpatrick
 J. N. H. Patrick
 Mat Patrick
 Theo. W. McCullough
 Andrew Murphy
 Bishop Clarkson
 Bishop O'Connor
 Dennis Cunningham
 Chas. S. Goodrich
 John Latenser
 Wm. Cullen Root
 E. A. Benson
 Fred Roos
 Wm. Gentleman
 Wearne Bros.
 Max Meyer
 Truman Buck
 S. R. Johnson
 Sam Spratlin
 J. H. Evans
 M. C. Peters
 Chas. L. Turner
 Harvey Newbranch
 Ward M. Burgess
 Alfred Sorenson
 John G. Jacobs
 Frank S. Parmelee
 Joseph Polcar

M. R. Murphy
 John Brandt, Sr.
 John Rush
 Frank H. Meyer
 Bishop Worthington
 Bishop Scannell
 Samuel Burns
 John H. Butler
 James B. Haynes
 M. E. Smith
 G. L. Hammer
 Arthur C. Smith
 Richard L. Metcalf
 Chas. Elgutter
 Uncle Joe Redman
 Rev. John Williams
 J. M. Borglum, & Sons
 R. W. Bingham
 W. W. Bingham
 A. N. Yost
 P. W. Lynch
 Ed. Cassidy
 Rev. Thos. J. Mackay
 J. A. Linnahan
 J. J. O'Connor
 M. J. Kennard
 L. C. Nash
 Judge Dundy
 N. P. Dodge
 Haarman Bros.
 J. H. Dumont
 Dean Tancock
 J. A. Sunderland
 Barker Bros.
 J. F. Flack
 Geo. F. Gilmore
 C. G. Hunt
 Gladstone Bros.
 R. C. Peters
 Alfred Bloom
 Robert C. Strehlow
 Peter Windheim
 A. Hospe
 Richard Hoyte
 W. B. T. Belt
 G. E. Haverstick
 D. V. Sholes
 John T. Yates
 Geo. D. Meiklejohn
 Chas. E. Fanning
 Walter B. Wilkins
 Frank B. Johnson
 M. R. Resdon
 H. E. Cady
 Terence Mahoney
 Andrew Kewitz
 Martin Dunham
 L. H. Korty
 G. H. and J. S. Collins
 Byron Hastings
 Geo. W. Nattinger
 P. W. Kuhns
 Thomas M. Orr

Robert Smith
 Henry Rosenthal
 Wm. G. Ure
 John MacDonald
 John H. Harte
 Val J. Peter
 Henry Ostrum
 Ben Rosenthal
 J. S. White
 Sam Orchard
 A. N. Wyman
 Geo. N. Hicks
 Alva B. Cook
 Garvin Bros.
 Gould N. Dietz
 Harry Byrne
 Sam Rees
 Geo. F. Shepard
 Jeff W. Bedford
 John T. Dillon
 Dr. E. Holovtchiner
 Thomas J. Fitzmorris
 Geo. B. Dyball
 Edward Riley
 Geo. W. Loomis
 Edward J. E. Riley
 Robert F. Gilder
 Ezra Millard, Jr.
 Keene Abbotte
 W. T. Graham
 W. A. Smith
 Frank Murphy
 Geo. Brandeis
 Frank Boyd
 J. B. Furay
 Robt. Purvis
 Thos. Quinlan
 John McCreary
 Judge W. A. Little
 Fred Krug
 Frank H. Woodland
 Thos. Beard
 Ed. Maurer
 John Hussie
 C. Z. Gould
 W. H. McKeen
 A. P. Tukey
 Victor White
 Phil McShane
 John C. Barnard
 Alfred Kennedy
 C. W. Hamilton
 Chas. L. Saunders
 Alvin Saunders
 Carr Axford
 Thos. Gentleman
 Chas. Westergaard
 P. A. Edquist
 S. A. Corneer
 Billy Byrne
 Frank A. Agnew
 Emmet Solomon
 Edwin F. Brailey

Theo. Sinhold
 Geo. W. Tierney
 Louis Rheme
 W. G. Templeton
 Richard Downey
 Chas. Connoyer
 John McMillin
 Jerry Mulvahill
 I. C. Beisel

Con Leary
 Peter Elrod
 Leo Hoffman
 Dexter L. Thomas
 Chas. Thomas
 Dr. T. J. Dwyer
 Nels Anderson
 J. Merrett
 James Cullen

John Douglas
 Frank Walker
 Harry Morrill
 C. H. T. Riepen
 C. J. Caswell
 John McArdle
 Joseph Houska
 James McArdle

THOSE NOT SO PROMINENT IN OMAHA'S UPBUILD.

There are many early settlers and their families in Omaha who have never figured prominently in affairs, but who pursued the even tenor of their way, and who, in times of prosperity and adversity, have stood by this city and contributed their share toward making it the great progressive metropolis that is now is. Many of them have passed beyond the great divide ere this. Among those that I can offhandedly call to mind may be mentioned the following:

Jerry Mahoney
 Henry Schroeder
 Dan Danahy
 Chas. Unitt
 Phil Smith
 Wm. McKenna
 John McGowin
 G. Fred Elsasser
 Peter E. Elsasser
 John O'Neil
 Otto Siemssen
 Patrick Duffey
 Mrs. Tim Moriarty
 T. J. Moriarty
 Joseph Hannon
 Michael Walanze
 Andrew Fahy
 Louis Peterson
 Thos. J. Flynn
 Thos. Casey
 Christ Rose
 Geo. Kliffner
 Pat Garvey
 Henry Newcomb
 Peter O'Malley
 Mrs. Mulcahy
 Thos. Gentleman
 David Shannahan
 Thos. Dailey
 Terrence Boyle
 James L. Boyle
 J. Pritchard
 Richard Mullen
 James H. Connor
 C. M. Rylander
 Thos. Garvey

John Garvey
 James H. Lynch
 Joseph Levine
 Michael Lovely
 Thos. J. Lowrey
 John Mullen
 Frank J. Kaspar
 Wm. O'Shaughnessy
 Mrs. Patrick Hogan
 Mrs. A. W. Coulter
 Mrs. Thos. Cormick
 Ed M. Robinson
 W. A. Belknap
 John Bolan
 Dr. Michael Ford
 Mrs. Josephine Carroll
 P. J. Gorman
 E. P. Gould
 John Matrin
 Theo. Gallagher
 J. O'Leary
 John F. Moriarty
 L. J. Kaas
 Chas. Daugherty
 J. J. Conlon
 James P. Dugdale
 W. B. Howard
 D. L. Shane
 Dr. L. P. Connolly
 Michael Hennessey
 Ed Fearon
 Dr. E. F. Coulter
 John Kerns
 John Albert Williams
 Frank Dewey
 Thos. J. Foley
 Ambrose Lee
 John J. Mahoney

Chas. Van Camp
 Otto Meyer
 Louis Swoboda
 V. E. Kuncel
 D. C. Black
 C. B. Havens
 T. F. Maher
 Jacob Counsman
 Thos. P. Redmond
 N. P. Feil
 Bruno Tzschuck
 Thos. F. Quinlan
 Mrs. J. W. Garmon
 Fred Smith
 Chas. G. Dyball
 Hugh Murphy
 D. J. O'Brien
 John Dale
 P. J. Creedon
 Jos. E. Detrick
 Richard M. Downey
 John Liddell
 Michael Lee
 Gus Lockner
 Chas. Hanley
 Jonathon Edwards
 Louis Grebe
 J. H. Beard
 Jeremiah Leary
 Thomas W. Blackburn
 J. B. Nickerson
 George Heimrod
 Edward J. Malone
 Henry Schroeder
 Henry Abrams
 C. H. Kubat
 W. A. Foster
 Cornelius Hogan

Carl Herring
David H. Christie
W. E. Hyland
James P. Dugdale

Charles B. Dugdale
Conrad G. Fisher
Vaclaf Burash
F. W. Carmichael

Robert Harris
Edison C. Rich
Frank A. Kennedy
M. J. Greevy

CHAPTER LI.

ABOUT SOME OMAHA MEN, LIVING AND DEAD.

W. A. Paxton always smoked a cob pipe.

Edward Rosewater never carried any money.

John L. Webster was never seen without a chronic vest.

W. J. Connell would rather fight than eat (this applies to a lawsuit only).

John I. Redick was the most sareastic campaigner in Nebraska.

Casper E. Yost is no older in 1915 than in 1880.

R. Beecher Howell is said to be the handsomest man in Omaha.

Judge Lee Estelle would adjourn court to hear a good moral story.

Judge Sears is the gruffest, yet the biggest-hearted man on the bench.

W. A. Shane of the Omaha National Bank is the most genial paying teller in Omaha.

Judge Charles Leslie is the most pious man on the bench.

County Judge Crawford possesses more original wit than any man on the bench.

Tom Quinlan possesses a smile that never comes off.

Mayor James Dahlman can make a speech on the slightest provocation.

Al Sorenson, editor of the Examiner, holds a patent on humorous writings.

Sherm Clayton is the biggest man connected with the street car company.

Harvey Newbranch of the Herald writes the longest editorials in the world.

Victor Rosewater, editor of the Bee, parts his hair in the middle and has handsome teeth.

Gurdon W. Wattles smiles only on extraordinary occasions.

Joseph Polcar, editor of the News, and John C. Lynch, county commissioner, don't speak as they pass by.

Sands Woodbridge of the World-Herald hasn't an enemy on earth.

R. L. Metcalf, editor of the Nebraskan, was once a warm admirer of W. J. Bryan.

Gilbert M. Hitchcock is the youngest man who ever represented Nebraska in the United States senate.

C. O. Lobeck is the slowest walker, yet the fastest runner that ever represented Omaha in congress.

Tom Murray was the only man in Omaha that never sold a new and unused article.

City Commissioner Jardine once challenged any one of his seventy-five teamsters to a fist fight, yet Walt uses crutches.

City Commissioner Withnell never made a speech in his life.

City Commissioner Kugel is the most feared man in Omaha—he has the entire police force behind him.

Dan Butler is the only commissioner that no woman would have—at least he is unmarried.

Judge Ben Baker prides himself on the fact that he hasn't a solitary hair on his head.

Charles Unitt is the only man in Omaha that claims to have a duplicate.

Postmaster Wharton's whisper can be heard all over the building.

James Woodard never talks, but is always assistant postmaster.

Owen McCaffrey says that every day in the year is a "fine day."

Rev. Savage has the marrying fever.

Bert Murphy would rather sell an auto than marry any woman in the world.

Weather Forecaster Welsh is the only man in Omaha whose mistakes are either wet or dry ones.

F. C. Best, county commissioner, claims he will put in his best licks to be re-elected.

It is said of County Attorney Geo. A. Magney that he looks more like Abraham Lincoln than Lincoln himself.

It is said that Chief of Police Henry Dunn was once a boiler maker—I don't believe it; he can hear too well.

Jos. Millard, president of the Omaha National Bank, has his office on the lot where he once lived.

Police Judge Foster adds to a sentence the penalty for hiring a lawyer.

Robert Cowell is conceded to be the ablest toastmaster and presiding officer in Nebraska.

It is said of Joseph Hayden that he can call by name and knows personally every one of his 300 employees.

It is said of Henry Ostrum, deputy election commissioner, that he can tell where a man was born by his looks.

Frank Dewey, county clerk, does more work with less noise than any official in the court house.

Bob Smith, clerk of the district court, isn't necessarily mad because he is red-headed.

Judge Day of the district court was never known to get excited.

Judge Troup of the district court would smile if he were fighting mad.

Bill Ure, county treasurer, carries a smile—I could never learn why, except that he may use it as a concealed weapon.

John Lynch, county commissioner, is said to have more warm friends than any man in Douglas County.

Judge Sutton is said to be the best politician in Nebraska.

Judge W. A. Redick is the only graduate from the Omaha High School who ever occupied a seat on the district bench of this district.

STORIES OF OMAHA MEN—LIVING AND DEAD.

The following is one of the many stories told of one of the most eccentric and miserly man who ever lived in Omaha, and who for years was known to every man, woman and child in this city—old Tom Murray. The story runs like this: During Dave Mercer's second term in congress from this district he had occasion to be home during the recess and, having been chided so often in Washington about Tom Murray being one of his constituents, Dave called on Murray at his home on Eighteenth and Harney Streets and said, "Tom, you are a disgrace to Omaha, and I feel like killing you; I will give you \$1,000 if you will let me." Tom looked at him and said, "Dave, come back at 2 o'clock and I'll let you know." At the appointed time Dave was there and to his surprise Murray said, "I tell you what I'll do, Dave; I'll let you half kill me for \$500."

Another story told of Murray is that he had three barrels of apples stored in his cellar one winter and the top ones started to rot, so he picked out the decaying ones and ate them. He did this every morning until he finally finished all of them in that way.

Back in the early '80s, when Judge G. W. Shields got married he started keeping house and had to have some dishes, so called at Sam Burns' crockery store. Mr. Burns, as all who knew him know, had a whining accent. The judge purchased a few articles and was departing when he chanced to ask the price of some expensive pieces and Mr. Burns said to him, "George, you need not ask the price of these—they are too high for you." That hurt the judge's pride and he replied, "Well, maybe they are, but you needn't cry about it."

The late Judges Savage and John I. Redick were trying a lawsuit before a jury in 1886, and Judge Savage in conclusion said to the jury, "Gentlemen, I have made this case very plain to you and I warn you that all you'll hear from Judge Redick will be abuse of me." Judge Redick in addressing the jury said, "Gentlemen, my friend Judge Savage told you that all you would hear from me would be abuse of him; now, gentlemen, I want to say to you as well as Judge Savage, that I lay claims to gallyantry—I never abused an old woman in my life."

Attorney Henry Estabrook, formerly of Omaha and now of New York and a candidate for the republican nomination for president, while trying a lawsuit before Judge Savage in the old Court House, was threatened by the judge that if he did not sit down he would fine him for contempt of court, which fine he did impose later. Estabrook, true to his characteristic wit, said, "Your Honor, you have fined me for contempt in a matter over which I have no jurisdiction, as I am afflicted with the same ailment as that of your honor, and when I sit it causes me excruciating pain, which no one knows or can appreciate more than your honor." Judge Savage looked at Estabrook and said, "Henry, if your statement is true, and I have no proof to the contrary, I will remit the fine and costs."

In 1898, when Judge Ben Baker was on the district bench, an Irishman by the name of Dennis Lane of South Omaha was a witness in a case on trial. Lane became an unwilling witness and refused to answer a certain question propounded him, saying that he was not on trial. The judge looked at him over his spectacles and said, "You refuse to answer because you are not on trial, is that it? Well, I'll tell you that if you don't answer you will be on trial in about a minute." He answered.

This story is told of the late Isaac Hascall. On Hascall's entrance into the city council in 1880 he met a man named Foley who congratulated him on his election, informing him of the fact that he (Foley) had two lots on a certain street which, if Hascall

would get graded he would give him one of them. At this Hascall became indignant and lodged a complaint in the council against a citizen who had sought to bribe him. The council having convened for the purpose of hearing the complaint, Hascall told his story. He was followed by Foley, who admitted he had offered Hascall a lot, but said the reason why they did not agree was owing to the fact that Hascall wanted the lot with the house on it. The case was dismissed and Hascall never afterward sought to bring proceedings against anyone who broached the subject of bribery.

I once had a case before the late Judge Dundy of the federal court. The man was charged with selling liquor to an Indian and my client had been in jail for some time so I suggested to the judge, as the offense was a trivial one, that he dismiss him with a reprimand, it being Christmas Eve. This the judge agreed to do, as also did Judge Ben Baker, then United States attorney. The prisoner being brought before him, the judge in a gruff manner started to reprimand him and soon informed him that he could go "hence without day." The prisoner, thinking he had said, "Go hence, without delay," made a sudden run for the door and out of the court room, and I firmly believe he is running yet, and that was in 1891.

Hugh Murphy, the contractor, was asked by a friend of his if he could get Peter Iler to sign a note for him would he (Murphy) sign it, too. Murphy, who is recognized as one of the shrewdest men in the country, said, "Yes, you get Pete Iler to sign that note; you know that I always have money on hand, and to show you that I am a good fellow I will give you the money on it myself." So far Murphy has had no occasion to advance the money, and that was in 1890.

Back in 1886, when I was in the cigar and real estate business on Douglas Street, I banked with the Commercial National Bank, of which the late Ezra Millard was president. One morning before leaving the store and office I wrote a check for \$12 and had it cashed in Henry Kaufman's saloon, next door, as I wanted to leave small money to make change in the cigar store. A few evenings thereafter Mr. Millard was passing my store and called me out and said, "Mr. Morearty, in looking over the checks that came into the bank today I noticed one of yours for \$12 in payment of a saloon bill. You are a young man and I want to advise you against issuing checks on saloons, as we bankers scrutinize carefully the purposes for which our patrons spend their money." I thanked him very kindly and from that day

to this I never had a check cashed in a saloon. I was thinking but yesterday what a time his brother, Joseph Millard, would have today in examining the checks of his customers in the Omaha National Bank, of which he is president and I am a depositor.

HOW BOYHOOD'S COMPANIONS SCATTER.

A few facts which I here present will fully illustrate how ones' boyhood companions scatter to the four winds of heaven. The first instance of this kind that fell to my lot was in the case of M. L. Learned, one of Omaha's prominent attorneys, as related in the biography of him in another part of these Recollections.

John Holt of this city is another. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn., and we were schoolmates, John being the younger of the two and, like all boys, he had some peculiar traits that in after years a companion would remember. Holt was noted for his aversion to headgear. He would never wear a cap, and was invariably sent home for it. In the course of time we both left school and never met until 1889, when in January of that year a young man came to my desk in the county judge's office and asked for a marriage license. I knew him at first glance, but he did not recognize me. After taking his name, place of birth, etc., I handed him his license and inquired when he had made up his mind to wear a hat. A few words more and we were recalling our schooldays of long ago. He was a stranger in a strange land, and I secured him a position with the electric light company, since which time he has held remunerative offices and is at present superintendent of our municipal beach. He has raised a large family, has a lovely wife and all are happy and content.

T. I. (or Teddy) Morrow, for a number of years street car conductor on the Farnam line and now engaged in the real estate business here, is another instance that I experienced. Teddy was one of my school companions when we both attended school in a log cabin in the primeval forest of East Tennessee, near Knoxville. I had been absent from school one day when Morrow "fit" and whipped one of my cousins, a boy much smaller than he. That evening I sent word to Teddy "that the next time I saw him, it made no difference where or when, I was going to lick him." I never saw or heard of him again until one cold night we were sitting by a stove in a political club in Omaha, when we both wished we were back in sunny Tennessee. It was then that we recalled the long standing threat, one made in 1871, this meeting having taken place in 1899. We both agreed that it was barred by statute of limitation and no two men were ever more delighted to meet and talk over boyhood days than Teddy Morrow and I. Moral: "The memory of schooldays covers a multitude of sins."

CHAPTER LII.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

The Woodmen of the World is the only fraternal lodge of importance ever organized in Omaha. It was started here in February, 1890, in a two-story building at 315 South Thirteenth Street in a small hall over Trexel & Williams' commission house, which for ten years or more afterward was used and occupied by the Marks Saddlery Company.

It was founded by my then neighbor, Joseph Cullen Root, who was also founder of the Modern Woodmen. I recall the occasion when the W. O. W. was started, having been asked by Mr. Root to be present so that I might be one of its charter members. Having had a pressing engagement elsewhere, I was unable to participate, a fact which I have often regretted. While Mr. Yates, its present general secretary, was not its first secretary or clerk, yet he became so shortly afterward and has continued in that capacity up to the present time, Mr. Root remaining its chief officer up to the time of his death in 1914. The first camp was called Alpha Camp No. 1, of which I have for years been a member. It is the largest as well as the oldest one of the order. The headquarters of the W. O. W. have always remained in Omaha, and are now located in their own magnificent sixteen-story building at Fourteenth and Farnam Streets.

Without wishing to reflect upon any of the many fraternal organizations of this country, I am free to say that of all of them of which I have been and am still affiliated with, the W. O. W. is, in my judgment, the soundest, safest and the best constituted and well balanced of any. I would not have made special mention of this organization to the exclusion of the many other good and reliable ones in this city were it not for the fact that it had its birth in Omaha, as well as its headquarters having always been maintained here.

The chief officers of the organization at this writing are: W. A. Frazer, sovereign commander; B. W. Jewell, sovereign adviser; John T. Yates, sovereign clerk; A. H. Burnett, general attorney.

POLITICAL CLUBS.

Political clubs in Omaha have been many but short-lived, mostly springing up as the enthusiasm of the occasion warranted. For some time this pentup enthusiasm was confined to the democratic and republican parties. Later on the populist party appeared upon the scene, flourished and fell. I will write of them in their order.

Republican—For a number of years the leaders of the republican party, having a mortal cinch in the shaping of its affairs, were reluctant to yield any part of that power to the rank and file of the party. Those were the days of railroad domineering, when John M. Thurston guided the political destiny of the Union Pacific railroad, while Geo. W. Holdrege cared for that of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad and Ben White did likewise for the Northwestern. King Caucus ruled supreme, and no political ward-heeler dare absent himself from the ward caucus; and woe be unto him who bolted the action and honest verdict reached by that august body—he was marked for life and placed on the black book of every corporation in Omaha.

Soon the rank and file of the party began to realize that they had been boss-ridden long enough and would suffer no more from the iron heel of this juggernaut. To that end they began to form and organize political clubs where their lips would not be sealed and an opportunity be had whereby they would give vent to their pentup feelings. As a usual thing after every national convention the party would form a club to indorse the action of the convention. As a rule the officers of such club were selected in advance in the office of one of the large corporations. If through any mishap the slate did not carry, a way was yet open—that was to kill the club in its embryo and get control of the county central committee, where due care was taken that none but the true and tried were placed on guard where his voice died in his throat (*vox faucibus haesit*).

Republican Knights—The first republican club of any importance formed in Omaha was in 1899, and was known as the Republican Knights of America. It was organized more in the interest of John L. Webster's candidacy for United States senator than for the party as a whole. This club assumed a noiseless proportion, and was swimming with the stream until a number of the friends and advocates of Edward Rosewater's candidate for the same office sought to gain control of the machinery of the club, which they eventually did. Enthusiasm having died, the club did likewise in 1901.

McKinley Club—In 1903 the McKinley Club was organized. Its active membership was confined to republicans under thirty-five years. Its first president was Dr. Harry Foster, under whose management the club flourished and for some two years it had attained a nationwide reputation, having entertained many of the most prominent men in the party, but it, too, died a natural death in 1904.

Fontenelle Club—Following the McKinley Club came that of the Fontenelle. This club and its members soon became imbued with the idea that they were foreordained by providence to fill

a long-felt want—that of reforming the party in Omaha and Douglas County by kindling in the breasts of the good people a great necessity for moral uplift. Their first plunge into the political field was in the fall election of 1904, when they elected a majority of the members of the legislature from this county. Flushed with the glory of this victory, they had but little trouble in getting credit on such a valuable asset. So alluring was it that the Union Pacific railroad immediately took a big block of the stock. This was not paid for in cash to its members, but in the equipment of a luxurious headquarters where the orders and mandates of this company were as freely given and as punctually carried out as if issued direct from its own headquarters. Its Shibboleth was "Reform;" their slogan, "Down With Ed. Rosewater," and with those two cries they soon went mad—the shibboleth they never meant, the slogan they were never able to carry out. In the spring of 1906 they became flamboyant and placed a complete city ticket in the field, with E. A. Benson for mayor, but no one on it was elected. In 1908 this club disbanded, yet as late as 1915 they were still parading the name at the primary election with a full ticket of those who could pay the price and get the benefit of the name of a political club that had been dead and buried for years.

Equal Rights Club—In 1906 the Equal Rights Club was organized as an opposing factor or rival to the Fontenelle Club. It was formed in my office in October, 1905. John Lewis was president and myself secretary, with a charter membership of thirty active republicans. In less than a year its membership reached 4,000. It was strictly a republican club, non-factional and non-sectarian, where the true principles of Abraham Lincoln republicanism were preached and carried out. It was opposed to sham reform and sham reformers, ranting fanatics and dreamy imbeciles. It was the instrument of cementing the party in this county, the results of which are felt even to this day—many republicans having been elected through its influence are yet holding their offices. In the campaign of 1906 it elected a complete legislative ticket, one that contributed its share in placing on the statute book the best laws ever enacted in behalf of the people of this state, some of which were "The Terminal Taxation Law," the "Two-Cent Passenger Rate" and the abolition of the free railroad pass. This club had but two presidents during its four years of existence—John Lewis and I. G. Baright, but one secretary, myself, and but one treasurer, John S. Helgren. Having filled its mission the club disbanded, carrying with it the good-will of all true republicans in Douglas County.

Republican League—In 1914 the Douglas County Republican League was organized. I was its president, and L. V. Guye, secretary. Its mission was to harmonize the discordant elements

of the party. It had a membership of 700, and gave one of the few picnics and barbecues ever given by that party in this county in August of that year at Florence, which proved a huge success. It having attained its object, disbanded after the election of that year.

Samoset Club—In 1884 the democrats of Douglas County organized the Samoset Club, which was the first party club that I recall in this city. It was composed of the leading democrats of the county and was a great political factor for years. They were uniformed, and of a class of uniforms that were showy and attractive. In fact, it was one of the finest political clubs this western country has ever seen, modeled both in purpose and in dress after that of Tammany Hall. It went out of business in 1890, after winning many successful battles for the party in this county.

Jacksonian Club—In the summer of 1889 the Jacksonian Club was organized. The ones who first thought of bringing it into existence were James B. Sheehan, now attorney for the Northwestern railroad at St. Paul, Minn., and S. R. Bush, now assistant attorney general of the United States. These two young men broached the subject to me in my office in the then New York Life building. I encouraged them in their efforts, but did not join, though holding office as a democrat, as I felt that my ideas upon the tariff would soon cause my expulsion. James Sheehan was elected its first president and the club made rapid and marvelous growth, so much so that it had as members every prominent democrat in the state, with W. J. Bryan as its prophet. For a number of years it controlled the democratic politics of Douglas County and had much influence in shaping the party's policies in the entire state. In 1908 a disagreement arose among the members resulting in the withdrawal of many of them and the formation of a new club called the Douglas County Democracy Club, with Louis J. Piatti at its head. This club for a long whole overshadowed the Jacksonians, and much rivalry prevailed, the Jacks, however maintaining their identity, but in a quiet way. The new club lived and flourished for some four years, when it disbanded, leaving the Jacksonian the field. For a number of years the Jacksonian Club had elaborate headquarters at Fifteenth and Harney Streets. Though still in existence, it has no regular headquarters, but holds occasional meetings and banquets.

Dahlman Democracy Club—In 1907 the Dahlman Democracy Club was organized, taking its name (and instructions) from Mayor James C. Dahlman. It is yet in existence and for years has maintained headquarters. It is a rival of the Jacksonian Club and numerically much stronger. It has controlled the democratic

machinery in Douglas County from its birth, and bids fair to continue to do so for a number of years. I am not informed as to the rivalry, but judging from my own knowledge of the men that constitute the respective clubs I would be inclined to the belief that it is a matter of social standing between the parties, as well as their respective appetites, the Jacks feasting on fried chicken and grape juice and the Dahlmans being content with Hungarian goulash and keg beer.

Peter Cooper Club—In 1898 the populist party of Douglas County organized the Peter Cooper Club, which had the distinction of having more members than any other club of that party in the United States. It flourished until 1900, when it died from an overdose of fusion or democratic inoculation. I stood at its baptismal font, and Elmer E. Thomas, John W. Barnett, John O. Yeiser, Victor Wilson and Geo. A. Magney were its pallbearers.

THE BANKERS REALTY INVESTMENT COMPANY.

It is not so important that New York City boasts a wonderful "sky-line," or that Chicago grows overnight to house her industrial and social life. The really significant factor underlying this and other structural evidences of metropolitanism is the possession by a given community of the gigantic power necessary to create its great buildings. Truly, there is food for reflection in the thought that "as a state builds, so shall it prosper."

Early in its evolution, earlier by far than the majority of states which have been and are marching to high place in the national scale of economic importance, Nebraska has realized the need for adequate construction facilities and proceeded, out of hand, to create them.

In Omaha in the month of May five years ago the Bankers Realty Investment Company had its inception as an exponent of modern building science and as a manifestation of western enterprise. It was then that our state departed from the outgrown, haphazard, too-costly methods in vogue in the building field.

The Bankers Realty Investment Company undertook this work, officered by prominent Omaha men and financed by Nebraska capital. It was prophesied that the company would ultimately build the state's sky-scrappers, though in the beginning its operations were confined to homes and smaller business buildings. Today fulfillment takes the place of prophecy and, in the Bankers Realty Investment Company, Nebraska has one of her great practical assets, a construction organization ranking as one of the most efficient in the country at large and as the biggest and strongest concern of its kind in the central western states.

The story of the growth of this company is the old, old success story of co-ordination applied to chaotic conditions; of foresight which sensed opportunity and of indomitable energy which performed the actual and arduous task of gathering into one complete whole the scattered units of the old style building system. Ordinarily, ten professions and forty-six trades are required in carrying out a building enterprise of any magnitude. And, ordinarily, these numerous factors work independently of each other, to the detriment of efficient and satisfactory results. The Bankers Realty Investment Company has welded together everything incident to the construction of any building, from a simple home to a huge business structure.

At its main offices in the Bee Building, Omaha, the company now employs, directs and controls the various professional men, artisans and circumstances which enter into and are part of building construction work. It has its own staff of experienced architects, construction engineers, purchasing agents, estimating experts, building superintendents, its permanent trained mechanics and laborers. It has a financial department which provides capital where building clients are unable to carry out projects of scope greater than their immediate resources and, to make matters complete, it maintains an insurance department to provide protection for the buildings it erects.

This is the modern building organization in brief, the epitome of all that is efficient. It succeeds in greatly reducing the cost of construction—by eliminating losses due to unscientific planning, by cutting out unnecessary expenditures covering the profits of the old contractor-subcontractor system, and by keeping within the limit of cost guaranteed the building client at the outset of the work. This latter is a vastly important point, since under the old order of building it happens far more often than not that the finished building costs the owner a third or over more than the architect estimated.

In addition to effecting economies, this modern building organization is likely to construct a more durable and more satisfactory building in every respect than can be expected of the system it is supplanting. Wider experience alone would account for this, but in addition, of course, there is the necessity, as a business proposition, of establishing a reputation for efficient construction method which shall be the basis of future growth. No more convincing evidence of the accomplishment of high-grade work could be had than the growth of assets of the Bankers Realty Investment Company from \$367,576.77 in 1913 to \$2,543,501.56 in 1916.

All in all, the existence of the Bankers Realty Investment Company is prophetic, since, duplicating as it does the best build-

ing facilities of the older sections of the United States, it foreshadows the speedy evolution of Nebraska's centers of population into the sky-scraping piles which characterize the American metropolis wherever it has been established. The Bankers Realty Investment Company, in short, is to Nebraska and the middle west what similar institutions have been to the east—the giant hand which uprears the big buildings of the present and future.

One of the greatest financial mistakes of my life was made when I failed to purchase stock in this company at the time of its organization, since which time its stock has greatly increased in value; yet at its present advanced price I would advise those with surplus cash to purchase as much of this stock as their means will permit.

I have carefully watched the safe and sane business methods of this company and as such I must say that they are in this respect in a class within themselves. I am in good position to observe the workings of this company, officing as we do in the same building, they occupying many rooms on the ground floor as well as the second floor of the Bee building.

The officers of this company are Peter Elvad, president; C. H. Jackson, assistant general manager; Dr. Frederick J. Wearne, vice president; F. C. Haver, secretary and treasurer, and I. Zeigler, solicitor.

OMAHA GAS COMPANY.

The record of the Omaha Gas Company has been one of continuous progress in supplying the Omaha community with economical, safe and convenient light and fuel. It was one of the first gas companies in the United States to adopt progressive commercial methods to supply the people of the community it serves, realizing that only by acquiring a large volume of sales could it reduce prices to the extent necessary to make its product available for everyone. That it has accomplished this is shown by the record of rates that have been in effect.

The following are the net prices for gas charged at various dates:

1883.....	\$3.00	per thousand cubic feet
1886.....	1.75	per thousand cubic feet
1893.....	1.60	per thousand cubic feet
1896.....	1.35	per thousand cubic feet
1905.....	1.25	per thousand cubic feet
1906.....	1.15	per thousand cubic feet
1916.....	1.00	per thousand cubic feet

To accomplish these results has necessitated very large capital expenditures in order to reach and serve the people. This is shown by the fact that in 1897 only one person out of fifteen of

the population had a gas meter, while today the ratio is one meter to five of the population. To reach this large proportion of the population requires over 310 miles of gas mains—enough to reach three-fifths of the distance from Omaha to Chicago. In 1892 there were eighty-seven miles of mains.

Prior to 1890 gas in Omaha was used largely for lighting purposes. In January of that year there were but eight gas cook stoves in the city. The "cook with gas" campaign began in March, 1890, with a cooking school in the old Y. M. C. A. building.

The first solicitor for gas business in the country was employed by the Omaha Gas Company in 1892. From this grew a permanently organized "new business department" of fifteen experts, devoting their entire time to studying the needs of customers and extending the business. At present every fair-sized and modern gas company maintains a business-pushing force. When these methods were established locally the gas company was a pioneer, and its efforts regarded skeptically by other companies.

In 1894 the company reduced the charge for installed service connections one-half. Two years later it began the untried practice of running service connections free. This policy is still effective. It has saved customers hundreds of thousands of dollars, and shows very conclusively the benefits the people have received in this way from a privately owned corporation, and in contrast with utilities that charge not only for the service connection from the main to the house, but that charged for the main as well, such as are exacted by our municipal owned water works.

Gas ranges, water heaters and other appliances have been sold to customers at the lowest possible prices. Local business houses have been encouraged to handle gas appliances, and at least seventeen are now carrying stocks of this kind.

The Gas Company, through its employees, contributes a large share to the purchasing power of the Omaha public, many of them having been employed for a long term of years, the oldest employees having been with the company thirty-three years.

The Gas Company was the pioneer in this city in endeavoring to give good and satisfactory service to its patrons, and its efforts have been greatly appreciated, as shown by the many letters and words of commendation from those whom it serves.

Its motto is and always will be, "Treat everyone honestly and fairly," and by so doing they can but expect such treatment from the public.

This company employs about 300 persons and pays the best wages paid by any firm or corporation in Omaha, all of whom are happy and content with their lot, also happy in the knowledge that politics plays no part in their advancement and promotion; that individual worth and not a political pull is the route to their promotion and advancement.

In addition to its heavy pay roll this company pays in to the city treasury in the neighborhood of \$152,000 per year as taxes.

I have had occasion to deal with this company for the past thirty-two years and I have yet to find the first instance of fraud or deception practiced by them, but on the contrary, I have found them ready and willing at all times to correct any mistakes that perchance might have arisen through their meter service. As to treatment, I know of no public service corporation in Omaha as accommodating as this company. From its president, F. T. Hamilton; its general manager, G. W. Clabaugh, down to the humblest employee, courteous treatment can be had at all times.

THE PROHIBITION QUESTION.

At the general election in 1916 in all likelihood there will be submitted to the people of Nebraska for their approval or rejection an amendment to our state constitution providing for constitutional prohibition in the sale and manufacture of vinous and intoxicating liquors.

In 1890 a like amendment was submitted and voted on by the citizens of this state and was defeated by a large majority; yet conditions may be different in 1916.

Personally I can see no good that can come to this state through prohibition. On the contrary, I can readily understand why it would be a financial detriment to its progress. The Slocomb law, under which we have lived for thirty-four years, has been very satisfactory when lived up to and strictly enforced, and if it cannot be rigidly enforced neither can prohibition, as exemplified in the states that have tried it. There are less drunkards and less crime and poverty in Nebraska, in proportion to population, than in any state in the Union; then why experiment with an effort at total suppression of the liquor business? Should the amendment carry, Omaha will be the hardest hit of any part of the state. It would throw out of employment some 4,000 men; greatly reduce our bank clearances and bank deposits; raise our taxes very materially—as a sequence the reduction in salaries of our already poorly paid teachers. There is no cogent reason why the people of Omaha should ask or vote for prohibition; the city is enjoying health, happiness and prosperity, what more could they ask? In short, the people of Omaha and the entire

state should be content in the adage of "letting well enough alone."

The liquor question is often agitated for various reasons and by a varied class of individuals. I have known many instances in which the prime motive was to attract the attention of the people from the real live issues, or in other words, a hobgoblin to draw their minds from legislation affecting the greed of trust and corporations. There are, no doubt, many well-meaning and sincere men and women who are agitating the matter through purely honest motives, but there are others who are for prohibition for the money there is in it, who, if you stopped their pay, their lips would be shut so tight and quickly that a finger caught there would be bitten off. Others have motives of revenge, brought about through thwarted political ambitions, charging it to the interference of the liquor element, all of which motives are selfish, and in no way should interest the public in general.

I am free to admit that the brewery interests in and out of this state have had much to do with the present agitation for prohibition, and if it carries it can be justly charged to their ignorance and indiscrete conduct. The average brewer has a sufficient knowledge of mathematics to know that there is 300 per cent profit in a barrel of beer, and as a rule has little conscientious scruples about where it is sold or when, as long as he has positive assurance that it will be paid for in due time. Not content with big profits, he must engage in politics so that he can dictate who shall make the laws and how they shall be enforced (or winked at), never realizing that such active participation in the furtherance of his selfish interests is gradually drawing down upon him the wrath of the people.

The poor saloonkeeper that works ten hours a day to scrape together the money that pays the brewer and enables him to build mansions, both in this and in other countries, is the man who is abused the most. He is denied life insurance and ostracized by society; must close his place of business at 8 p. m.; pay \$1,000 a year license and invariably very high rent to the brewer who, in most all cases, owns the saloon property—contrary to law.

This, coupled with the fact that the saloonkeeper, after closing his doors at the time provided by law, is confronted with the spectacle of having to witness the upstairs tenant of the brewer selling enormous quantities of bottled beer on a \$25-a-year government license.

This article will probably not meet with the approval of either side of the controversy, yet they are my views, gained from actual knowledge, and while I shall vote against prohibition, I still maintain that should it carry the blame will justly be charged to the brewers. In this connection I wish it understood that

brewers as a whole should not be considered in this article, as there are honorable exceptions, namely, that of the late departed Fred Metz and that honored and respected old citizen, Fred Krug, both of Omaha.

ST. PHILOMENA'S OLD CHURCH AND CATHEDRAL.

St. Philomena's Roman Catholic Church and Cathedral, which for close to half a century stood near the corner of Ninth and Harney Streets, carries memories of the long ago, memories mingled with both joys and sorrows, as it was the scene of happy occasions for some and many sad bereavements for others.

My own recollections were and are but fond, glorious ones, as it was in that church, a few hours after my arrival in Omaha, that I knelt before the first altar in Nebraska; it was there that I was married, and there that my first child was baptized, and where my dear mother had spent many an hour in prayer and meditation. The bell on its tall steeple daily rang its Angelus, tolled its sad notes on the demise of a dear friend or relative; it pealed forth its call to worship to the many yet living and the hundreds whose inscriptions can be read on the tombstones of Holy Sepulcher and St. Mary's cemeteries.

Many are the mothers and grandmothers yet living who were led from its altar by some honest, warm-hearted, muscle-hardened pioneer. How sweet the memory of its Bishops, O'Gorman and O'Connor and Scannell, also of its dead and saintly priests, Fathers Kelley, Curtis, Bruin, O'Connor, Rierdon and McCarthy, and of that of the living, Colaneri, English, McGovern, Carroll, Jennette, Stenson and Moriarty.

But time in its onward march has caused it to crumble and give way to commercial progress, and to yield to that natural instinct of mankind to move westward, where the course of all empires have taken their sway. Let us hope that those of us who are yet living, who were its former members and parishioners, may live long to cherish its hallowed memory, and while traveling through this valley of tears forget not the brave and faithful dead who once shared in our joys and sorrows, and chant for them the *De Pro Fundis*, and pray God to have mercy on their souls.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, let me say that we are more or less—growing old.

A little more tired at close of day;
A little less anxious to have our way;
A little less ready to scold and blame;
A little more care for a brother's name;
And so we are nearing the journey's end,
There time and eternity meet and blend.

A little less care for bonds and gold;
A little more zest in the days of old;
A broader view and a saner mind,
And a little more love for all mankind;
A little more careful of what we say,
And so we are facing a-down the way.

A little more love for the friends of youth;
A little more zeal for established truth;
A little more charity in our views;
A little less thirst for the daily news;
And so we are folding our tents away
And passing in silence at close of day.

A little more leisure to sit and dream;
A little more real the things unseen;
A little bit nearer to those ahead,
With visions of those long-loved and dead;
And so we are going where all must go,
To the place the living may never know.

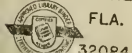






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